

THE DEBATE
OVER DOLLY



Maclean's

MARCH 10, 1997

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

The Empire Strikes Out

How the Eatons lost their legacy

The secret struggle to stave off bankruptcy



George Eaton
and great-
grandfather
Timothy

\$3.50

10



HOW THE GAME OF ICE HOCKEY WAS INTRODUCED TO THE COUNTRY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Calgary International Airport, 3:00 p.m.

The saga begins

South African kids, dressed in their winter coats and scarves, are cheering as they watch their international hockey tournament in Copenhagen.

Early did I know, the stiffest competition would be Murphy's Law.

Copenhagen, 6:00 p.m.

"Our luggage is delayed!" I said. "It's arriving tomorrow via ... South Africa," the airport desk explained politely. "Tonight's game isn't in South Africa," I said through clenched teeth.

Larry's Sporting Goods, 10:00 p.m.

Needless to say, the shipper was pleasantly surprised to see an entire hockey team being outfitted with brand new equipment. But he was dead (also) compared with my little girls (also) rifled through the new gear like it was birthday days all around. As I watched them I thanked my lucky stars for Visa Gold card's purchasing power. I never thought I'd dare use it, but then again I never thought I'd need half the added benefits that come with my Visa Gold card. I guess the best defense



against Murphy's Law, a never say never. That said, just as I was breathing a sigh of relief, young, strong, or Rocket as he prefers, rugged or my cool side



Dr. Julian's Office, 2:00 p.m.

It seemed that Rocket's aching shoulder could not be surgically stored in his locker bag (which of course, was somehow, how our Agents at this point. I called up the Visa Gold brochure and they gave me a lot of English speaking doctors. Rocket got his shoulder re-fitted and we headed for the rock

Copenhagen Sports Arena, 6:00 p.m.

As the kids roared in the ice and I removed the few remaining price tags from their helmets, I celebrated our first victory—the last beating old Murphy. And the first star of the game, in previous rounds, was definitely my Visa Gold card. But then again, I guess that's why they say "it's the only card you need."

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Maclean's
CANADA'S
WEEKLY
NEWSMAGAZINE

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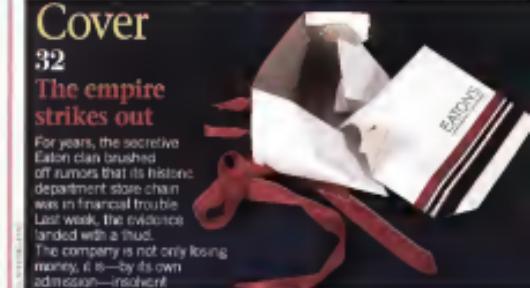
Maclean's on the Internet:
<http://www.ca.com/maclean.htm>
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The empire strikes out

For years, the secretive Eaton clan brushed off rumors that its historic department store chain was in financial trouble. Last week, the evidence landed with a thud. The company is not only losing money, it is—by its own admission—insolvent.



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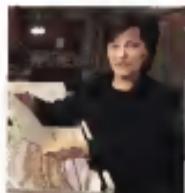
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The price to save the CPP

Like many people, Anita Costello will need the Canadian Pension Plan when she retires. Recent reforms should ensure its survival but at a cost.



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The Dolly debate

The debut of Dolly the cloned sheep in Scotland left the world ponderingondrous medical and agricultural applications—and nightmarish fears.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID WILSON

From The Editor

Memories of Eaton's



It was a week for memories at Eaton's. With the announcement that the proud—and secretive—Family Firm is closing—or not broker—there were few Canadians of a certain age who did not recall some incident, or gift, or association. And that was the real problem—customers of a certain age. Our memo and finds may have been regular customers, and we may have dropped in from time to time to buy a tie for an uncle, but the younger generation shopped elsewhere—at the plastic record emporiums, in the "big box" hardware stores and garment racks of the new specialty clothing chains. That goes under Canadian institution.

There was a time in our life when the Eaton's empire—12 main stores and most order offices more than 180 locations—measured for 50 per cent all department store sales in Canada. By the late 1940s the main store in Toronto boasted that it had the biggest cashbox in the world. There were Eaton's factories in five cities making everything from clothing to stoves. There was also insurance company. At Christmas, the staff balanced up about \$5,000 House Trustee, a provincial civil servant in Fredericton, recalled last week that it has home town of Moncton, N.B. "If you didn't work at the CN store, you worked at Eaton's."

In a *Maclean's* article in December, 1946, writer John Clare evoked the scope of the main store in Toronto when he noted: "You can have a meal or send a telegram, get your shoes half-soled or buy a cause. You can have your other suit dry-cleaned and plan for a wedding, right down to such details as a woman at the



Montreal store in 1970s: the missing apostrophe

church to fix the hen's nest. You can look up addresses in any Canadian city. You can buy stamps or have your picture taken."

The Montreal store on Ste-Catherine Street was the social kind of place. From leather to fine linens, generations outlined their horns and themselves. It was the annual soiree of the Santa Claus Parade, an event that drew families from cities and towns for miles around (and once caused a major pause in our family because a young friend got lost for several agonizing hours).

Ironically, given the aging customer base, Eaton's once organized junior councils for young people, who were paid to attend meetings, as a way to attract new shoppers. The store also became a symbol of the colonizing Anglo, and among French-speaking customers related stories of having to speak English by a uniformed Eaton's clerk. Later, in confidem with Quebec's language laws, the firm dropped the S-off as more, thereby giving Quebec a special status in the national chain. Afterwards, Frederick Eaton confided to a friend that he wished the company had simply removed the apostrophe, making it Eaton's.

The earlier times were happier times. Back in 1945, a shopping mother gave birth to her baby at an emergency hospital located in the Eaton store in Toronto. Eaton's was the kind of place where, literally, Canadians could get their start in life.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

'Cover change'

Changing the cover story on deadline is a time-honored custom at *Maclean's*, but no less frantic for its frequency. The constant is the Sunday printing deadline. One of the highlight cover switches was last summer when Canada won Olympic gold in the men's relay—on a Saturday evening—bumping a scheduled cover story about fugitives in Canada, which ran as an inside special report.



Last week, the cover changed twice. As the week began, the subject was to be the upshot in Toronto about the "mystery" assassination. Before Monday was over, it changed to the cloning of a Scottish sheep named Dolly. But the words "cover change" rang through the newsroom again on Thursday when the financial crisis erupted at Eaton's. By Saturday morning, an eight-page cover package was going to press, with the cloning story running inside at six pages. The Toronto cover was held for another line. And what about next week? The mystery will be a strong candidate. Unless, of course, more urgent news intrudes—again.



BOSS
HUGO BOSS

Photograph by Richard Arden



Calgary: challenge for economic leadership of Canada

Moving to Calgary

Your piece on Calgary was right on ("On top of the world," Cover, Feb. 20). I've been telling friends and family what a fantastic city and province this is. After growing up in Toronto and wanting to believe that I lived in the centre of the universe, I decided to move out here. In the past seven months I have found an apartment downtown for \$805 (Turkish equivalent: \$678) and found work quite easily. I'll always add: "Will you ever move back to Toronto?" And I reply: "When the Leafs win the Stanley Cup."

John E. Bawden
Calgary

I rather enjoyed the challenge that Calgarians are putting out to Torontonians for economic leadership in Canada. I do take offence, though, with the comment by Colmáin DeBelle: "Gallows about the city's high-end transit being on the honor system." You would never in a million years get that back east." DeBelle will be interested to know that GO Transit, the government transit committee in Ontario, has been running on the honor system for 15 years. Let's keep the nice, no-positive identity terms.

Chris Hargrave
Toronto

Regarding the facts

Alan Fotheringham writes in ("Clarendon: he gets along by going along" (Feb. 20) that Clarendon "has been noted in his entire political career" by Mitchell Sharp, who is now approximately 104, the most solidly conservative ever hidden within the Liberal Establishment." So there I was, seven years of age at the beginning of the 20th century. Always precocious. I read the newspapers. Then you are writer who appeared to me. I forgot his full name, everyone called him Mr. Froth. Not much regard for the facts, but a witty way of writing about superficialities. For example, about John A. Macdonald. Mr. Froth, who was from Saskatchewan, couldn't understand how John A. had risen to be prime minister—here. He had no principles, no leadership, compromised, procrastinated, deserved to be called "Old Tomorrow" and Mr. Froth. That's how he brought about Confederation. In opposition, a Tory, in office, a closet Gen. What fun to look back a hundred years or so and recall the profound changes that have taken place in political life in Canada and, at the same time, to observe how little has changed in the way these profound changes are interpreted by those in the press who from time to time find it profitable to edit facts rather than reform.

Albert Steen
Gatineau

In his judgment the progressiveness of the British is to look at themselves. Alan Fotheringham recalls Beyoncé's Fringe, mentioning Dudley Moore and Peter Bennett ("Laughing at the owl we elected to lead us," Feb. 17). More giddily, I think he intended to refer to Dudley Moore, Peter Cook and Alan Bennett, not Peter Bennett.

Christopher Bates,
Adelaide, B.C. 

Zero inflation impact

When John Crowe was appointed governor of the Bank of Canada, he made it known that his personal goal was zero inflation. The time, many economists thought this amazing because we knew that zero inflation, as currently measured, is actually deflationary and would lead to very high job replacement and restricted economic growth. We are not surprised many years

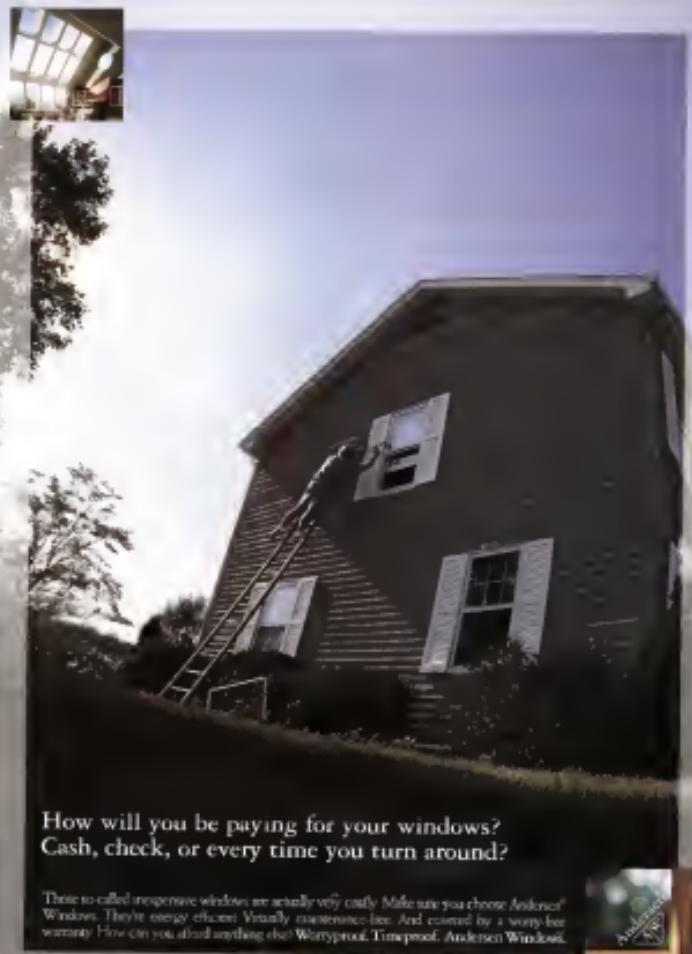
Blackened reputation

For the record, Alice Munro's many books contain no "passages of interest" and only one reference that can be reasonably described as dealing with the subject ("West problem of abuse," The Mail, Feb. 20). The named act is not described and the 19th-century perpetrator is hunted down by a mob and killed. As for the other charge, Munro's wide-ranging work deals with all sorts of subjects, at length. Her recent book, Selected Stories, runs to almost 250,000 words and only once touches on pedophilia. On that single occasion, she leaves any healthy reader feeling rightly chilled and appalled—and as it happens, the victim wrecks a house in revenge. Far from to assist the letter-writer in casually blackening the reputation of Alice Munro—a mother and now grandmother—by linking her with child abuse is unforgivable.

Douglas M. Colman
Peterborough, Ontario

Later The call for full employment policy is understandable ("The like promise of low inflation," The Road Ahead, Feb. 20) and equally as attainable through changes in economic policy as is today's very low inflation rate. But it is very for the economic policy pendulum to swing to the other extreme, which will reinsert the commercial and social ills of high inflation. Rather than polarizing our economic, social and political alternatives, we need to seek and then sensibly support moderate policies for the long term. Our national motto should be: "Moderation in all things, excess in none."

Alan Moore,
Gatineau



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Letters to the editor

Here are two more wines from the Cape in South Africa that I tasted recently along with a few tasting notes I made on them.

Andrew Sharp
Wine Educator and Columnist
Chairman, Taste for International



Andrew Sharp's tasting notes



DROSTDY-HOF COASTAL REGION MERLOT

Deep ruby colour with bright purple tones and a moderate nose. Complex mixture of black currants and cedar. Medium-bodied. Sports good tannins and long finish. Flowers could be kept for a couple of years. Beverage with red meats, seared lamb chops and robust cheeses. **94**



DROSTDY-HOF WESTERN CAPE CHARDONNAY

The pale yellow-green colour. Moderate intensity, round fruit and nut aromas. Fruity finish of citrus. Has a soft, mouth-filling texture. Clean with a long, vibrant character and flavour. Pleasant with shellfish, poultry and aged, robust cheeses. Refreshing on its finish. **93**

THE MAIL Hockey and abuse

Year Feb. 10 cover depicting a young hockey player—apparently being hit in the face—gives the impression that abuse is rampant. (Are your kids safe?) Nothing could be further from the truth. This is just another example of the media focusing on the very few bad apples while totally ignoring the majority of volunteers who are dedicated to developing good character and the skills of our young people.

Peter Fisher
Ottawa

Although sexual is one form of abuse, let's not forget about the other kind that can leave as damaging a scar—verbal abuse. It's caused by cycling coaches who think athletes can't make any mistakes. It's caused by coaches who constantly scream at their players, all the while thinking it will improve performance. It can create irreparable harm without parents knowing what has happened to their child.

Peter Weston
Gatineau, Ont.

Driving influence

Not too many people I know want to drive 500 miles to buy a car* country to auto analyst Maryann Keller's assertion about how buying a car is about to change ("Scaling the firm," Business, Feb. 10). Keller also overstates the role of the Internet in changing the way people buy cars. No body using the World Wide Web wants to read our dealership ads, though people do check out product specifications on the manufacturers' sites. Further, the Canadian part of the North American automotive market is clearly different, as Canadians have less disposable income and pay more for fuel, so I question Keller's opinion as to whether a majority of Canadians will be able to afford expensive new gas-guzzling light trucks and sport-utility vehicles in the future.

Chris Mayes
Gatineau, Ont.

Diet professionals

As a member of the Canadian Society for Applied Nutrition, I am concerned about the abundance of nutrition/diet books that are being written by nonprofessionals ("Dangerous diet," Health, Feb. 10). If I were to write a book on psychiatry or choroptics, how credible would it be, given that I neither studied nor practised in these two areas?

Edward R. Fenner
St. Catharines, Ont.

THE MAIL Affording children

As a mother of four, I read an utter disgraceful article on child poverty ("Growing up poor," Special Report, Feb. 10). We have a secure household income, and yet after our third child, thought long and hard about having a fourth and the financial impact it would have on us. We live in comfortable circumstances, had to think whether or not we could afford a fourth child, can how these poor families continue to have the children that are destined to suffer? Some of the families you profiled have a large number of children (day's standards) and are expecting more. Perhaps some of our government funding should be allocated to programs concerning responsible sexual practices, birth control and the option of abortion. With such an education, it is possible that these currently struggling to survive will better understand the options available to them and make better decisions than their parents.

Rebecca Brondum,
Kitchener, Ont.

Once again, I'm dealing with feelings of sadness, sympathy and anger, sadness and sympathy for the families described in your article, and anger at people who continue to turn away from their fellow Canadians and either deny that they live in truly appealing conditions or tell themselves it's what poor people deserve and if they aren't as lucky they wouldn't be poor. A lot of my feelings come from personal experience. I have a brave, intelligent and extremely funny sister. She has three sons, gung-ho children. She works part-time and attends university. She was on welfare until she was cut off last September because she attends university. Now she is working part-time, she is one of the low and I mean low, who managed to get some financial assistance privately because, even though she works and manages three kids, she remains at the head of her class. She works her butt off every day making sure her kids are fed, dressed,

and are happy and healthy. She wants to better herself and she gets no help from a government that doesn't feel the need to support its citizens, citizens who will one day be active members of this society. Can we see how frightening everyone's becoming by turning away and upping the many members of our society? Why is it always about money now?

Jeanne Ahern
Calgary, Alta.

be misconstrued as something more sinister. The shade of that thought still hasn't worn off, and although my wife still has to care for me and the kids for dinner, my relationship with the other kids in the neighborhood has changed.

As a Beaver leader, with 20 five-year-olds in my group, I have children running up to my house when I have "Beavers Under Scrutiny" (piece) (Cover, Feb. 10). The fact that I received a call back when I took a child to the bathroom with a break for baseball and soccer. Being a "big kid" made me have a lowered head to enjoy hours of tag, Frisbee, hide-and-seek, races, watching water fights and snowmen construction with not only my own kids but with other children in our neighborhood as well. It has always made me smile when a kid showed up at my door and asked, "Can you come out and play?"

Last year my wife sat me down and told me I must be careful when playing with our neighbors' kids. She was concerned that,

with all the publicity over child sexual abuse, a parent might mistake my actions. As I set them aside, the realization hit me. It had never occurred to me that just having fun with "the other kids" could

be about child safety rather than about someone in Canada's political arena not wanting to address the issue by taking the money away?

As for advice to other parents, I think one of the best ways to protect your children from these types of interests is to volunteer yourself. You will not much notice about the situation if you are involved.

Barbara Brinkley, matron to diverse special needs children in Canada's pediatric cancer and hematology program. She has written numerous articles on her work in appear as an occasional sidebar.

Affording health care

Your editorial on care to the Canadian healthcare system ("When care goes too far," Feb. 10) ends with the simple question "Why?" The simple answer is we can't afford the Canada Health Act. We have been implying we could afford it by handing it over to our children's treasury (i.e. deficit spending) for altogether too long. Finance Minister Paul Martin and his sensible conservative

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“...in a place where we are gathered, is...” (cf. Mt 18:19) is precisely the kind of response that the GOSPEL of JOHN and JOHN the BAPTIST expect from us, especially in our search for the truth among the many voices of our culture.

The logo for Sheraton Hotels & Resorts. It features a stylized 'S' inside a circle at the top, followed by the word 'Sheraton' in a bold, serif font, with 'HOTELS & RESORTS' in a smaller, all-caps sans-serif font below it.

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Another View



Charles Gordon

A security craze on Parliament Hill

Until just the other day, anyone who wanted to drive an all-walkout Oslo Parliament Hill could do it. If they were driving, they couldn't park too close, but they could drop some toxic oil or, around Christmas time, do a slow circuit and look at the pretty lights. Then a guy decided to push the envelope logic by driving into the Centre Block without getting out of his car. This used up a lot of his vehicle's few-wheel drive camo, so when he got off, he either lone-flashed or strolled.

The man was appreliated before anything more could happen. In fact, the only thing that was ever presented was the usual outcry about security on the Hill. Commentators did the thing they always do whenever anything gets the slightest bit out of hand around the prime minister or the parliamentary precincts. First they overstate the expressive "sense of innocence." Then, they went in search of foreigners who would say "It could never happen in my country."

Which is unashamedly true. In Japan, the law minister is walled in and heavily armed SHOGUN guards guard all the entrances. In the United States, from which so many of our compatriots draw their inspiration, no unchallenged person is an unassailable 'bulwark' has been written blocks of the White House in years.

Such measures are recommended to us, as is the mere fact that our system differs from those of other countries condemns our system. It's the old inferiority complex again. Just as easily, someone could have been found to say "black heaven you can still drive your car down Wellington Street".

To say that one can't criticize their strategy enough is saying nothing that hasn't been said hundreds of times. The virtue of a relaxed atmosphere on Parliament Hill is in the sense the people have that they are treated. They don't have to be walled off and searched, they can walk right up and chat with MPs and even ministers. They can demonstrate signed petitions, in fact, on the very steps that the government upholds. They can issue Frasers on the steps. They can walk up and down carrying a placard, every day for months at a time. In all of this, they may be noticed by the guards, but they will have to do something demonstrably out of line before their actions are restricted.

It would never happen near the White House, isn't that great? To be fair, the people responsible for security on the Hill are among their informed security needs at vehicles. We should still be able to wander around on foot, but that won't stop the securityobsessed from clamping on. Some of those are politicians—not all of them, but a small group who are made to feel more important by the severity of measures set up to protect them. You will recognise their cousins in the generic acci-

distance from their factories, studios, universities, newsrooms. You will also recognize the voices of those who see the superiority of all things American—would probably move there, if they could only afford the health care. Some of them are making these days about the superior American system of government support for the arts, for system consisting, in large part, of no support. The other voices, from the countries that support the arts more than we do, from the countries that still allow people to get close to those who express them, are not heard so often.

This is the way a country loses identity by trying to do what any other does better by refusing to stand up for its traditions, for its own way of doing things. ours has worked well, compared with most other places, including the United States. The fact that somebody drives a jeep up some stairs should not change everything. We now stand against people driving Jeeps up some stairs. Tomorrow, we will be guarding against any balloonists. Will we be getting French

through a metal detector? They need so much violence do and, meanwhile, these are values to protect as well as people. Even Americans think that. When a two-block section of Pennsylvania Avenue was closed in 1995, *The Washington Post* editorialized as follows: "Closing Pennsylvania Avenue puts the shades over a symbol of our open democracy that has endured since the founding of the Republic. Threat by threat, restriction by restriction, and attack by attack, we have seen a secretly-imposed divide separating the president from the people grow ever wider.... It is a sad commentary on our times."

Sound familiar? One of the thoughts we have to guard against—more dangerous even than a balloon—is the notion that some of our values, whatever in a quantum sort of way, are simply outdated in a changing world. We hear that said about our health-care system, our social services. We have heard it said about passenger railroads, the Wheat Board, public broadcasting, manufacturing jobs, the family farm, the fishing industry and a great many other institutions that Canadians value, and not all of which are likely to survive. They were given a look-in, we are told, but they have served their purpose and we have to move ahead with the rest of the world. Now, we are hearing the same thing about our own Parliament Hill.

The danger in moving ahead with the rest of the world is that we become like the rest of the world. We start giving up what is good about this country in order to attain what might be good about another country. Overreaching to a bank-rating agency, overreaching to a guy driving a Jeep up the stairs or averting a Jesus Helmets—the principle is the same: we stop thinking like Canadians and begin thinking as others would think like Canadians to think. Next

The danger in moving ahead with the rest of the world is that we become more like the rest of the world

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

The price of freedom

Self-described "Earth Werner" Paul Wilson is prepared to take radical measures to protect marine life. Since the controversial Canadian environmentalist founded the California-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in 1977, he has confronted harpoon hunters in Newfoundland and intercepted whaling vessels on the high seas. Now, Wilson's group is offering \$60,000 to anyone who successfully releases the orcas, or killer whales, that Japanese whalers captured on Feb. 7. "The orcas are one of the most intelligent life-forms in the planet," says Wilson, adding that the creatures, which were sold to Japanese amusement parks, would have fetched about \$430,000 each.



Omega, Watson (left). Waiting with a very stubborn system

we are very complex, social, family-oriented species."

Wilson acknowledges that it will be difficult to actually free the animals from high-sea captivity. So his group is prepared to hand over the reward money, collected from the society's 25,000-plus members, to any individual or group "who can achieve their release by any means, diplomatic or otherwise." \$60,000, while remaining hopeful something may come of the offer, Wilson admits, is a long shot. "When you are dealing with the Japanese, you are dealing with a very stubborn system," he says. "There are dollars and cents involved, and that is what it all comes down to."

then the right," he wrote. Fred Japan, Quebec's environment minister, says his company never meant to get into the middle of the national unity debate. "It has been interpreted in a certain way, which may upset our members and we'll change it," Japan says. New-Jean Right supporters should settle in stores in the next three weeks—without the verbal baggage.

Take a number

It's standard practice for Bell Canada to demand a security deposit from new customers. The Montreal-based company promises to return the money in a year providing the account remains in good standing. One day, though, a Bell customer says the money is not there. After a frantic search, she had to phone Bell and discovered her \$200 deposit had been eventually arreved. The reason for the delay? A check cleared that Bell had a two-month backlog. Helga Dials, general manager for credit services in Ontario, says the company is not negligent in saying there was a backlog in returning deposits, but, she cautions, Bell is trying to minimize the problem. Nor could Bell say how much Bell racks from interest on the deposit money. "That's not the issue," she added. "The issue is risk mitigation." \$86, according to Dials, 7.3 percent of Bell Canada's 7.3 million customers—or 112,000 people—in Ontario and Quebec have security deposits outstanding. With those deposits averaging \$200 each, Bell is sitting on approximately \$22.5 million of other people's money. A tidy sum in anybody's books.

A tireless campaign

Most advertising agencies would be angry if a campaign they had organized for a client was a runaway success. But things have not turned out that way for the Vancouver agency behind the local "Go green" campaign, which in 1990 started encouraging consumers to take public transportation instead of their own vehicles. The ads by Wasserman & Partners Advertising Inc. have worked as well that demand will soon outstrip supply. According to surveyors BCT Transit and the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the government body re-



sponsible for the campaign, ridership has grown faster over the past six years than the public transportation industry. Wasserman recently had to "Go green" budget cut by close to \$104,000. The new focus of the remaining \$890,000 is on walking, cycling and carpooling.

*Barbara J. Kremmer, *Inside Park**



Busted in the pool

Feminist Perera Henson thinks it is only fair that the law treat the sexes equally. But even after the Ontario Court of Appeal in December overruled the adultery conviction of former Gaetan, Ont., resident Gwen Jacob for going topless on a hot day in July 1991, Perera Henson of Cambridge, Ont., says she had "a funny feeling" that men and women would continue to be treated differently. (The court ruled that women are not breaking the law by baring their breasts in public if they have no sexual motivation.) So on Feb. 21, Perera Henson went swimming at an indoor city pool in just a pair of cycling shorts. "This was not an easy thing to do," says the 34-year-old mother of two daughters, about going topless in public. "But this was a matter of principle," Perera Henson got the response she expected—the lifeguard asked her to put on a top or leave. After she refused, the Cambridge police arrived and issued her a \$25 ticket for trespassing. Perera Henson, who in her case has to pay the fine, has hired a lawyer and requested a court date to plead her case. City officials are also talking to a lawyer. "We're working with our solicitor," says Wayne Taylor, Cambridge's commissioner of community services, "and we don't wish to risk my comment." The bare facts speak for themselves.

BEST-SELLERS

- 1 *State of Affairs*, Oscar Goodman (1)
- 2 *Alpha Strike*, Michael Arnald (3)
- 3 *Fall on Your Knees*, Jack Moro Macmillan (2)
- 4 *The Captain's Bay*, Linda Hendriks (4)
- 5 *The Partner*, John Grisham
- 6 *Man Without a Country*, Jerry L. Daniels (2)
- 7 *The Voter of Panama*, John le Carré (6)
- 8 *Antonia*, Michael Crummey (1)
- 9 *Heretics*, Peter Gzowski (5)
- 10 *Two Men Against*, Timothy Findley (10)

INFORMATION

- 1 *Even More Books*, David Freedland (2)
- 2 *Smart Systems*, David Freedland (3)
- 3 *Against Justice*, Frank McCourt (3)
- 4 *Simple Abundance*, Sarah B. Brewster (2)
- 5 *One in Six Million*, Michael Moore (1)
- 6 *Practicing Democracy*, Gordon L. Weil (1)
- 7 *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, John C. Maxwell (1)
- 8 *The Secret of the Universe*, Otto Sack (4)
- 9 *My Songs*, Diana Krall (2)
- 10 *The Resistance*, Robert Durst (6)
- 11 *The White Devil*, Jean Webster

7 million last week. Compiled by Brian Robins

Kids' tough questions

Speaking of *SEX* For 22 years, Vancouver nurse Meg Holking has been educating schoolchildren about sexuality. Now in *Speaking of Sex: Are You Ready to Answer the Questions Your Kids Will Ask*, she addresses the questions her students have posed most often and dispels some common misconceptions.

POP MOVIES

Depp goes undercover

With *Deep Blue Sea*, British director Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) gives the role of Captain Alvin Seawell a new twist. Based on a true story, it stars Johnny Depp as an FBI undercover agent who gains the trust and friendship of a Mafia soldier (Al Pacino) who has spent too long in the trenches. *Geopolitical* meets death at a *Salesman*.

Pop movies In *Canada*, according to box office records during the last year, that ended on Feb. 22, the top ten numbers of moviegoers were:

- 1 *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) 22,220,239
- 2 *Star Wars* (1977) 21,049,689
- 3 *Cast Away* (2000) 18,799,709
- 4 *Armageddon* (1998) 13,646,149
- 5 *You Don't Know Jack* (2000) 13,027,990
- 6 *Paula's Dilemma* (2000) 12,927,990
- 7 *Vegan Vegetarian* (2000) 12,927,990
- 8 *Deep Impact* (1998) 12,927,990
- 9 *The Thin Red Line* (1998) 12,927,990
- 10 *Shane* (1953) 12,927,990

Information: *Books* (continued from page 102)

Passages



APPOINTED: As president of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, a Montreal organization funded by Ottawa, veteran Liberal MP *Walter Allard*, 64, The announcement by Prime Minister **Jean Chretien** ended months of speculation and opened up one of Canada's safest Liberal ridings for the next federal election, widely expected in June. Allard represented the mainly anglophone Montreal riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grace since 1985. He held several cabinet portfolios under **Pierre Trudeau** and sponsored the bill that abolished capital punishment in Canada in 1976. Allard, who succeeded former NDP leader **Ed Broadbent**, says his hopes in focus ride of the campaign's \$5-million annual budget on democratic development. Broadbent, the centre's first president, stepped down a year ago to join England's Oxford University as a visiting fellow.

DEBUNKED: Geologist **Harold Jefferis**, 85, best-known for his 1953 discovery of the Bimble River-Eliot Lake uranium deposits in Ontario, which eventually became Detour Mine Ltd. in his Toronto home. After finding what turned out to be one of the world's biggest uranium deposits, Jefferis parlayed \$15,000 he received from a U.S. stock promoter in developing the site into a \$30 billion fortune. Jefferis, one of the first members of the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame, was later a consultant to the United Nations, helping developing countries look for ore bodies.

APPOINTED: As officers of the Order of Canada, members of the Toronto rock band **Rush**, singer **B Geddy Lee**, 43, guitarist **Alex Lifeson**, 43, and drummer **Neil Peart**, 46, Rush is the first rock band to receive the order since the national honor system was created in 1967. To recognize "exceptional achievement in important fields of human endeavour."

UPHEALED: The manslaughter conviction and 16 years in prison for **Stephen and Leslie Tanner** of Coquitlam, B.C., for the shocking 1994 stabbings death of their three-year-old son **John Ryan**. The Court of Appeal of New Brunswick ruled in its 25-page decision that the sentences—the harshest ever given for child abuse in Canada—were fit punishment.

Grim tales from the Gardens



McCarthy:
"A lot of people
working there
knew about it."

The sex scandal at the hockey mecca keeps growing

BY TOM FENNELL

John McCarthy can still recall the day in 1979 when he first saw the hairy figure of Gordon Stachleski skating off the ice around an outdoor rink near Toronto's Regent Park. McCarthy, an impressionable 14-year-old at the time, had lost his virginity the year before, leaving his mother to raise a family of six children in the low-income housing complex. When the hockey-crazed teenager played with his team, the St. Paul's Panthers, he wore black and orange socks with holes in them and battered hand-me-down skates with thickly taped toes. Perhaps it was the hairy lad's vulnerability that prompted Stachleski to approach him with an irresistible offer—an invitation to visit nearby Maple Leaf Gardens, where he then worked as a part-time maintenance man. As McCarthy recalls, Stachleski was soon giving him tickets to hockey games and rock concerts. But the price, McCarthy says, would be tragically high. Over the next 20 years, he alleges, Stachleski and two other men who were also working at the Gardens would drag him into empty offices and have oral and oral sex with him. "It happened loads and loads of times," says McCarthy. "And a lot of people working there knew about it."

Part of the reason they knew, McCarthy said, was be-

cause his case was far from unusual. The same tactics were used to lure dozens of other young boys into having sex with Gardens employees, he says. Sometimes, he remembers, the star-studded kids even received invitations to the Toronto Maple Leafs' dressing room, where they were introduced to their hockey heroes. For years, the victims kept the Gardens secret. But in January, when former Mayor Martin Koza, 54, because the time to blow the whistle, leading to the arrests last month of Stachleski, 47, and John Paul Riley, 54, a part-time usher for 25 years, both were charged with gross indecency and indecent assault. Police said George Hannan, a longtime equipment manager with the Toronto Marlies who died in 1984, was also involved. Almost immediately after the arrests, police were inundated with calls from others who said they too had been abused at the world-famous hockey stadium. By the end of last week, the number had reached more than 60 men—and two women. An efficient Koza ended the deluge of allegations "wonderfully," this has been the best week of my life.

As the sexual violence, the question lingered as to why no one in authority at the Gardens seemed to know—or care—about what went on in the back rooms. Last week, Det. Dave Teicher of the Metropolitan Toronto Police and the Shawise was "conscious knowledge among the staff." So far, Teicher added, there is no indication

that senior management was aware of the problems. But McCarthy says that Harold Ballard, the Gardens' amateur owner from 1973 until his death in 1980, would often walk by as Bannan and a group of kids sat watching TV together—or were coming out of the team rooms naked. Even though the years had no particular reason for being in the building, no one in charge raised any questions. And he never complained, he says, because Bannan and Stachleski made him feel important. "They made me feel like I was Harold Ballard's son. I could bring my friends in anyone I wanted."

To ensure that his favorite boys were always nearby, Bannan even found jobs at the rink. McCarthy first worked as an usher and attendant selling pop and hotdogs. In 1980, Bannan got him a coveted job as a stick boy for the Toronto Toros in the now-defunct World Hockey Association. Even today, claims McCarthy, some of the people still working at the Gardens were given their start by

agents were isolated incidents. The Gardens' board of directors decided not to go to the police, Fletcher said, because Koza wanted to remain anonymous. "They chose the road route," and Fletcher "They would catch out of it. They did not want to go to the police."

Koza said he charged his board about going public after the January conviction of Gordon James of the Swift Current Broncos. The long-time coach was found guilty of sexually assaulting two of his players when he was 16, in 1980, one of whom, Sheldon Kennedy—now a Boston Bruin—had every reason to sue the media. Koza's own graphs and descriptions included dozens of young boys being naked or rags having sex with Gardens employees. Just how many victims were there? At least one parent of an alleged teenage victim said that Gardens officials had good reason to believe there were many—and that they simply were not reported enough.

Toronto businessman Barry Bingham and his son Darryl, were flooded with bad memories when they saw Stachleski being led out in court last month. When Darryl was 12, Stachleski was his hockey coach. On a team trip in 1987, Stachleski arranged for Darryl to share a room with the boy—and secretly invaded his. Darryl told his parents and they immediately went to police. In 1988, Stachleski was arrested for indecent assault of the boy and received a short jail sentence. At the time of his arrest, he was on probation, after serving 14 months for sexual assault involving several boys and 12 in 1974 York Region sex fit of the year in the early 1980s.

When Bingham realized in 1988 that Stachleski was still working at the Gardens, he wrote a letter to Donald Giffin, a longtime Gardens director who became president following Ballard's death. In no uncertain terms, Bingham warned Giffin that Stachleski was a consistent, unpredictable Gardens official who used Stachleski to leave the Gardens. Bingham told Marlies, however, that he was far from satisfied when he received a reply from Gardens officials that simple thanked him for his correspondence. "I wish they had gone to the police," said Bingham. "Instead, they told me that Stachleski had paid his debt to society."

By last week, the Gardens' board of directors finally appeared to have recognized the gravity of the situation. In an emergency meeting led by Stave, they agreed to take a number of aggressive steps, including requesting the disengagement of the contractor company's investigation and offering counseling to all victims and employees. Still, the board refused to assume any responsibility—let that trouble befall child welfare advocates and experts in corporate ethics.

The Children's Aid Society of Toronto operates a child-abuse registry, which contains the names of convicted sex offenders. If Giffin had entered Stachleski's name, his long record of abuse would have come up. And David Naton, president of EthicScan Canada Ltd., a Toronto consulting firm that advises corporations on ethics, said the Gardens should have had guidelines in place to encourage "whistle-blowers" to come forward. "Maple Leaf Gardens just does not fit right," said Naton. "There were problems at the place and management should have known about it."

And what of the Gardens' most public faces, the hockey players who created the arena's famed mystique? For former Maple Leaf, the revelation that torturous acts were being inflicted near their dressing rooms was almost impossible to believe. Det. Michael Ian Tamblyn, who left the force in 1980, said that players were not aware of the problem. But he noted that Ballard was a pawnbroker who would often give jobs to people willing to work for very little money, without knowing much about them. Det. Kelly, the latest Leaf centre who coached the team during the 1970s, emphasized that problems arose at the Gardens when Ballard took over in 1972. While the previous owners had run the place with military precision, he said under Ballard, "it was as if a bunch of pirates had taken over." And that, it seems may have created the atmosphere that led to a Canadian tragedy. □



Stachleski escorted by police, charges of gross indecency and indecent assault

Hannan in exchange for sex. "They are still there," he said. "They know who I am."

Both McCarthy and Koza turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with pain and depression that they say were caused by the abuse. McCarthy also fell into a life of petty crime, and is now facing a short sentence in a Ontario provincial jail for stealing money from a pensioner earlier this year. Koza, McCarthy believes, has life was destroyed by Stachleski, Bannan and Riley and is determined to demand compensation from the Gardens after he is released. "I think I'm owed some pay," Koza says.

That issue will no doubt haunt Gardens owner and chief executive officer Steve Stave. In 1993, lawyers representing Koza approached the Gardens demanding \$1.75 million in compensation. Koza settled for \$600,000 in 1995 in a deal that also included a confidentiality agreement. Maple Leaf president Cliff Fletcher said the Gardens' insurance company, Royal Insurance Canada, investigated Koza's original allegation promptly, but concluded that the as-

Dustup in Alberta

As Ralph Klein tries to coast to victory, the campaign heats up

Halfway through what began as a lackluster campaign, sparks finally began to fly on the Alberta electoral trail. First, federal New Democratic Party Leader Brian Topp Manning challenged Premier Ralph Klein to clarify his position on a distinct society status for Quebec—a distinctly unpopular issue in Alberta. Then, a week later, after Manning's 46-to-35火cracker speech in Calgary, the situation shifted to an even more contentious issue: health care. Frustrated with staff reductions and wage markdowns and what they say is the expanded use of skilled workers in the health system, Alberta's 12,000 registered nurses—who have been without a contract for almost a year—announced that they will hold a strike vote this week unless an agreement is reached in their demands for staffing and wage concessions. The next day, Klein was both booted and cheered when he hosted a press conference at a candidate's debate in his own riding of Calgary Elbow—but much of the focus again on health care cuts. And a day after that, a second union, representing auxiliary medical personnel, announced that it, too, plans to hold a strike vote this week. Health care, says United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) president Heather Smith, "is a real Achilles heel for the government."

But can the Tories be seriously wounded? Probably not—so spite of last week's skirmishes, many political observers say Klein is heading for an even stronger majority when Albertans vote on March 13. Going into the campaign, the Conservatives held 54 seats, compared with 29 for the Liberals and none for the New Democrats. Polls now suggest that the election may come down to a contest to determine the size and composition of a reduced opposition. The fiercest battleground is in the once anti-Conservative stronghold of Edmonton—which failed to elect a single Tory in the 1993 election. But according to the latest Angus Reid poll, released last week, even in the provincial capital the Tories now enjoy 50 percent support among decided voters—while provincials say they have 60 per cent support with the Liberals' 25 and the NDP's with just 11 percent. "It would certainly be a landslide," says Roger Gibbons, a University of Calgary political scientist. "It was a washup but a fight to see who survives on the opposition side."

Manning's distinct society challenge is certainly expected to have little impact on the provincial campaign. There has been speculation that Klein intends to endorse the concept during future constitutional negotiations. Alberta's once-mighty Social Credit party—now with only three provincial supporters—has sought to play safe with the issue, coming out firmly against any special status for Quebec. But last week, Klein finally denied that distinct status is on his agenda—and he has also proposed to hold a referendum before April. Both appear to play future constitutional changes. In fact, many analysts say that Manning's challenge was aimed more at Jean Charest, who has endorsed the concept of distinct society by forcing Klein to deny that he has plans to back special status for Quebec.



Klein stoking for nurses' protest
(below): health care is the issue

bee, Manning may have dimmed the prospects for any future collaboration between the premier and the federal Tory leader. "The point is to get Ralph to say things now that will make it more difficult for him to come up to Chateau during the federal election," says University of Alberta political scientist Peter McCormack. "Manning took away a bit of Ralph's maneuvering space."

On the health-care front, the Tories may be a little more vulnerable—as Klein personally discovered last week. The premier has been keeping a relatively low profile during the campaign, running on the government's record in eliminating the provincial deficit and posting a \$3.8-billion surplus in 1996-1997. But he faces a challenge in his home riding, from retired catalogue Harold Swanson, who ran unsuccessfully against Klein in the Tory nomination last fall before picking up the Liberal banner. Swanson was able to use the candidate's debate to accuse the government of "systematically dismantling health care." A day after the meeting in Calgary Elbow, Klein defended his budget-cutting record in a televised leadership debate. "I didn't say it would be easy, but I did say it would be worth it," said Klein. "And it is." Not according to Liberal Leader Grant Mitchell, who took aim at the Tory cuts and argued that Alberta could be more progressive as well as competitive and entrepreneurial. And not according to NDP Leader Pam Barrett, who lambasted both the Tories for slashing too much—and the Liberals for inadequately opposing the government.

How the opposition vote is ultimately split could be the defining



moment of the election. In the past, Albertans have tended to elect large majority governments; when the Liberals won 32 of 83 seats in the 1993 vote—three members have since crossed the floor to the Tories—they actually formed, proportionately, the largest opposition Alberta has seen since 1935. According to Gibbons, "part of the reason for that is the opposition vote is always behind a single party." The question now is whether that will happen again. With Thirdings Edmonton is the key to the opposition parties' fortunes—or is it? In the capital, the Liberals currently hold 16 of their seats, while before the 1993 election the NDP held 11. This year most of the city's ridings seem to be up for grabs, including the constituency of Edmonton Riverbend, created since for last election.

On a recent evening, New Democratic Doctor Fong, 46, went door-to-door in Windsor Park. It's a relatively affluent neighbourhood, but close to some of Alberta's and its affiliated hospital—and home to some of the professors and health-care professionals disaffected with government budget cuts. Fong's campaigning had mixed results. Although the candidate, a research manager at the university's population research lab, gathered signed pledges of support, she also encountered many Liberal supporters, but there were two constituents who clearly intended to vote against Klein but had not yet decided—or would not say—which opposition party they would vote for. "The teachers are angry, the doctors are angry—I can't believe Klein has the base," said one, an anesthesiologist who expressed concerns about government cuts. "We say who, but I hope his majority is diminished."

That indecision could be welcome news to Liberal candidate Linda Shantz, 36. President of the Staff Nurses Association of Alberta, a union separate from the UNA, Shantz argues that the Greens have in fact been effective in opposition, that they have raised health-care concerns, fought privatization in health care, and forced the government to release full long-term funding. She chose to run for the party, she says, in part because it balances fiscal and social responsibilities. Shantz also notes that, compared to the NDP with no members, the Liberals had an election machine "that travelled and analyzed in place to run a campaign to turn the next government—or a strong opposition."

The Tory candidate in Riverbend, meanwhile, cautions that some people in the riding do have concerns about health care. And, given Klein's acknowledged weaknesses, "we can't have that lack of confidence—we value our health system so highly." But the Riverbend candidate maintains that most of those who have been in it have been very satisfied with their treatment. And, she argues, there is a lot of support for the government. "For the most part," says Shantz, "people will say 'I like what was done—we had a good spending in health care with our earnings, although I might have some questions about how it was done.'"

In spite of the Tories' popularity, much is still subject to change before election day. Gibbons, for one, suggests that the high level of support for Klein's government may actually favor some third-party supporters—confident of victory—to cast their ballots for a particularly strong opposition candidate in their ridings. Other analysts note that media coverage generated by the opposition is bound to narrow the gap. Given the spread in the polls, though, it appears unlikely to change the direction of the campaign—and thwart Klein's quest to form another government.

MARY NEMETH in Edmonton

Down to the wire

Hope fades for a definitive report on Somalia

Gilles Letourneau was on his best behaviour last week. There were no angry exchanges with witnesses, no scathing public comments about the Canadian military. Nothing, in fact, like the sort of behaviour that led to the embarrassing drawing of one's own hat. The Canadian inquiry received recently from a fellow Federal Court of Canada judge. The steady, unapologetic Letourneau Sept. 28 has cool as he outlined Lt.-Col. David Mathews' about the March 4, 1998, shooting of two Somali civilians by soldiers of the Canadian Airborne Regiment under his command. Letourneau's show of restraint was impressive—if anyone might be tempted to think it was forced, it is the manner in which high-minded quest for a measure of truth in the Somalia affair has seen all but dissolved in failure.

At the root of the problems is



Justice: an amiable juror whose reputation is now on the line

query. The rebuke came from Letourneau's colleague, Justice Douglas Campbell, who ruled that Letourneau had a "startling bias" and would not be allowed to participate in any discussions or findings about Bessi. Although the commission still appeal that decision, it confirmed the impression that the commissioners have lost control of the probe.

Now, with zero hour approaching, the commissioners find themselves in an uncomfortable position. Having acknowledged that they cannot complete their work, how can they hope to issue a final report without having heard all the evidence? That question lies at the heart of the challenge mounted by Doug. In documents released by the commission, senior defence department officials alleged that, on March 25, 1998, Campbell's advisers were made aware of the circumstances surrounding the torture draft, 19 days earlier of 16-year-old Shukran Awey by Canadian troops. But Campbell and his advisers claim that they learned of the detail only when the news became public at the very end of March—and that defence department officials tried to thwart their attempts to get more information. Now with the March 30 deadline, the commissioners have decided that it is out of the Somalia story that will go uncoloured.

Others are also likely to challenge the inquiry. "It's unfortunate," former Supreme Court Justice Wilfred Exley said. "The activity has been crunched up to such an inane level." Most will be relegated to a section on Section 12 of the Federal Inquiries Act, which requires commissioners to negotiate with those who might be found at fault in a final report. So far, Bessi is the only known recipient of a Section 12—although it is likely that other officers and senior bureaucrats have been notified. And, so far, the only official challenge has also come from Bessi, whose lawyer Bruce Carr-Harris wants the inquiry closed down. His argument, the more I feel that answers have been found, shows the inquiry is ready to point fingers; it has heard the whole story. "The only people whose life is going to get worse are the ones who have already testified," Carr-Harris notes.

But Letourneau himself has also been bloodied. Just 55, he has enjoyed a wide-ranging career—as a law professor at Laval University, a Quebec bureaucrat and then as head of the now defunct Law Reform Commission. Throughout, his reputation grew stronger. The question now is whether it can survive the Somalia inquiry.

The Canadian government, it seems, can live with that. From the moment he became the in-



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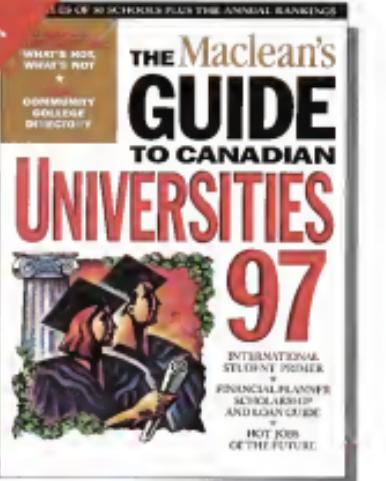
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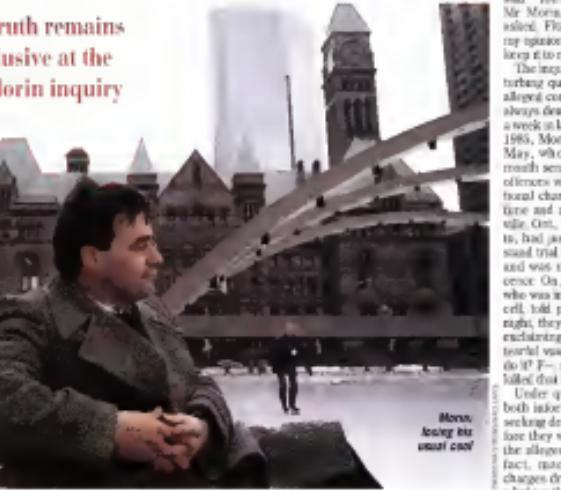
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BOOK REVIEWS

Flanagan insisted he against Miron was high even without the charges. "In my mind I harbored enough evidence of circumstantial, that leads to a conviction," he said. "I was not prepared to say he's innocent." Lockyer, Flanagan replied, "It is—I would past as soon as you say it!"

He has also raised questions about Morna's condition, which he has been treating. For about a month in June and early July, he was serving a sentence for fraud-related charges facing three admissions. Morna, 24 at the time of the incident at Queenston, 15 km north of Toronto, was committed to the Jessop Institution, waiting on his appeal. On July 1, May and Mr. X, as he is known in the news media, that, during the time Morna evaded police, an ungrateful and "Oh f--- Why did I do this, f--- I killed her f--- the girl!"

testimony by Cooper, who acknowledged that he is with the police he would reveal details of his confession. May, in response, is believed to have two stopped while receiving a suspended sentence. As far as the committee is concerned, the inquiry that he has been the victim of what actually happened at night, but remains a born again Christian. In 1984, he told the *Independent* he had "fornicated" and profaned himself at night, according to the *Independent*, lying to those people.

to report on his findings, may eventually be for Morris, who is together after a 12-year absence. A massage with his wife married after being widowed as a self-employed man enduring mysterious in the hands of the coroner's inquest. He detaches the task of finding out just who did kill

After all, since mid-February, Dr Paul Morris has publicly admitted to testimony at the judicial inquiry into his wrongful consecutive-degree murder but his claims exploded last week, as did all his accusers. former Durban City Dr. Francis Mapostek, for example, claimed that police had changed the DNA evidence – even though DNA evidence was led the Gauteng Court of Appeal in his conviction for the Gees killing of his then-wife Christine Jessop. "She still hasn't been laid to rest," Morris, 36, said later in the individual."

attorney and from 1000000 when they rejected been described to tell the voluntarily-incestuous Rockey says to enhance

court order prohibiting publication, testified at Morris's 1986 trial that he had heard Morris was a "big ass murderer. Although it ended in a hung jury, the Crown successfully appealed the verdict, and the two informants were granted immunity.

several interviews, Maria's uncle said both trials had been a success.

co-counsel Conrad Austin from his lawyer James Ladley on an offer from the Crown Fitzpatrick to excuse the man at the second trial, which was a result, May, who has died as a pathological liar, was the jury that he was testifying reflecting some of the details on his character Cooper and noted that the older man played the credibility of the informer

JEWISH



Canada NOTES

A CHALLENGE TO QUEBEC

In a case initiated by Justice Minister Alan Rock, federal lawyers filed arguments against the legality of unilateral Quebec secession before the Supreme Court of Canada. "It is fundamental to Canada's constitutional order that such a major alteration to the Federation would have to be accomplished by constitutional means," the government stated. Quebec Premier Lévesque Bouchard has argued that Quebec's right to independence supersedes the Constitution.

NO TO VIDEO GAMBLING

Residents of Rocky Mountain House voted by a 2-to-1 margin to ban video lottery terminals in their town. At present, 12 other Alberta communities are likely to hold plebiscites on the issue. Premier Ralph Klein recently said that communities can ban the devices if majority opinion demands it.

CANADIAN, EH?

In April, a dozen Canadian magazines, among them *Chatelaine* and *TV Guide*, will feature an eight-question survey designed to elicit support for domestic publications. Readers will be asked to send the completed survey to Heritage Minister Sheila Copps—an attempt to pressure Ottawa to stand firm in protecting Canadian magazines. Last January, the World Trade Organization issued an interim ruling against federal regulations on split-run magazines—U.S. publications that have Canadian editions with increased American content.

UNEMPLOYED AND ANGRY

Unorganized construction workers in Cape Breton went on a rampage in Sydney, burning several vehicles and an unaffiliated apartment building where non-unionized workers had been employed. Cape Breton's unemployment rate stands at 26 per cent—well above the national average of 8.7.

EXAMINING THE POLICE

In Montreal, an inquiry opened into the Sûreté du Québec, which has faced continuous allegations of corruption. Lawyers for the provincial police force attempted—unsuccessfully—to remove Louise Rivet, one of the three commissioners, on the grounds of bias against the police. Rivet spent four years as a member of a police complaints review board.

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Under the fiscal knife

The news got hard. Last week, the

the member's resolution calling for an end to the hospital crisis. Other meetings included one at Penbrake's two hospitals and three psychiatric hospitals, one in Brookville and two in Linden. A resolution on closing about a dozen of Metropolitan's 64 hospitals is expected this week. Fifteen months ago, the Conservative government said it would cut \$2.2 billion from health care over three years.

Red Cross manoeuvres

More than 100 signatures of protest were sent at the Canadian Red Cross Society last week in British Columbia. Leslie Gibbonsback withdrew from a protest against the blood agency last fall. Gibbonsback decided to sue the Red Cross because her son James had contracted hepatitis C. Gibbonsback had blood drawn for her son. But last year, the blood agency denied James' hepatitis C test. Dr. James Kasey of Vancouver, B.C., as a third party to the suit, alleged he had failed to adequately care for James, now 18, in a test. Rosy said Gibbonsback could no longer sue James' doctor because his defense could be used against him in court. In order to keep Kasey, she also declined to pursue the suit, which could grant class-action status later this month. The fight is over, she said last week. "We have to concentrate on James' health."

The other co-plaintiff in the suit, Anita Radtke of River George, B.C., is continuing with her action, but has given up her claim after she was also named as third-party Red Cross lawyer Jim MacMaster said. Radtke's legal team has agreed to stop breaching their client's confidentiality. "They were told it's a high-profile act they had to consider," he said. "It's a Red Cross wanting to avoid a law-suit which could result in huge damages." Radtke, 30, B.C. residents who involved flood-affected camp hepatitis C, said she will join the B.C. suit. "It's been a class action,"

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A new battle zone

Israel's housing plan opens the struggle for Jerusalem

Har Homa, a pine-forested hill three kilometers southeast of Jerusalem, seems an unlikely flash point for the next bitter round in the decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict. The pristine site of a future Jewish housing complex is still but a slate-green patch and the biblical grey-green canyons of the Judean wilderness. It lies down a narrow, twisting lane from the Hwy 188b mandatory, just off the road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Nearby is the traditional site of the field where the shepherds watched their flocks on the night of Jesus' birth. Yet according to Israeli Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, this is where "the battle for Jerusalem" is about to begin. And where Israel, according to senior Palestinian negotiator Saad Eddin El Khoury, will be forced to defend its capital.

Last week's Israeli cabinet decision to build 6,500 homes for Jewish families on the 184-hectare mount provided the latest crisis in the uncertain march towards peace. Inaugurated Oslo, Norway, in September, 1993, the Oslo Accords—known as *Jabot Abu Gharnim* in Arabic—have been unable to resolve the conflict between the PLO and the State of Israel.

incorporated into the expanded municipal borders of Jerusalem, which Israel quickly annexed. The Iblots are the only group in the 'outer wall' of Jewish suburbs situated to the east of East Jerusalem in the past 30 years. Three-quarters of the land on which the new project will rise was bought from Arabs in that period by Jewish associations. The rest remained in Arab hands. Both Jewish and Arab land was expropriated for the development. Critics say Israel's move is to complete the isolation of Jerusalem as a Jewish state. In Hebron, the site is still under Jewish control. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, facing potentially severe political trouble of his own, stressed that the project's sole purpose is to provide much-needed housing to the divided holy city. Both Jews and Palestinians claim as their capital. 'Apaches cannot freeze the natural growth of cities,' and Netanyahu's diplomatic troubles show, Boaz Gold, 'Both Arabs and Jews require growth' and it is necessary to connect the world map to the project's plan for 2015. Arab towns in other parts of Israel

"The Israelis," Efrat told *Ha'aretz*, "have decided to solve the issue by settlement. They act as if they have sovereign rights over East Jerusalem, where they are only the occupying power here. But we will be left to negotiate—Arabs will grow more suspicious, listening to Jerusalem's settlers, a right-wing element of Netanyahu's Likud party. The Palestinians will be left to wonder."

that branch government was not quite the much-heralded one—for the moment at least. In any case, put its security forces on lockdown after an uninvited forester, West Bank village of Birzeit, rammed in which a member of *Hezbollah* shot and killed a father of 11. In Jerusalem, accusations that violence was more likely to be *bulldozers* actually roll on like a train in a marsh. The head of the *Shabab* (internal security arm of *Hezbollah*) was killed in a

and ensure that they not be able to move once building begins. It held in part because Netanyahu made calculating over life and death over the Jerusalem deal. The prime minister was ever the Jerusalem hawk. The unswerving deal giving Palestinians up to 10 per cent of the city in the next stage of their redemptions, due to be three times as much as was originally offered, was due in Washington this week, where he lobbied

in decisions were essential to hold the prime minister in power. It had to be for Jerusalem to unquestionably heating up. Maher, a 26-year-old Muslim who was walking along from a cart in the Damascus Gate of the Old City last week, said: "If they hold Bar Ilan, it means they are going to take the whole of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is at the core of my religion. I will fight for it until death." In predominantly Christian Bet Shemesh, the names of Anan and Bar Ilan were as anathema as sacrilege. "Not the Israeli government nor the Palestinian Authority wants us to leave," said Linda Anan, a 37-year-old cake owner. "But the Israelis are leaving our people no choice."

With that said, in some ways, a new optimism—the sea-year popular among the forces—has crept into the preceding line: "We can't do it alone," Martin Abu-Tor, 30, mused in his clothing shop in Um Tuba village, which overlooks Har Hama. "But with France, a 24-year-old patrician, confirmed to leftist leanings, he argued, "The Jerusalem name is still open. The countries of the world do nothing to stop Israel during whatever it wants. During the intifada, we lost a lot of lives and it achieved nothing."

Israeli officials do not conceal the fact that the Rabbis' decision was aimed to secure Netanyahu's political base. His nationalistic support was eroded by the January redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron and by his commitment to a timetable for the withdrawal. Moshavim settlers have been instrumental in pressuring their local councils. MFY threatened to demand a by-election if another

Netanyahu was also putting on a show of firm leadership in the face of an mounting scandal over the abortion law choice of an unqualified eight-woman lawyer as attorney general. Although Roni Bar-On resigned down within hours of his appointment, he was subsequently alleged to have been at the center of a shadow deal with Arnon Herl, a leading religious politician who has been on trial for the past three years on corruption charges. Allegedly, Dr. Herl's son Perry was willing to back the Hebrew withdrawal in exchange for a promise that Deni could get a legal blessing in court. Police investigators say criminal charges may be brought against Israel's justice minister and the

the prime minister himself is expected to be questioned for a second time this week. Only then will it be known how deeply he was involved, and whether his freshly elected premiership could be longer. His single-party coalition could find itself in the lurch if the Knesset (parliament) fails to support him. It would be split by 81 votes in a no-confidence motion, requiring a new election, or a ministerial no-confidence motion. It is possible, as that

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The fight for Bel Pagette

When Canadian Zoran Markovic returned to his native Serbia to set up a business, he did not expect to have to choose between his \$20-million company and his life. But that, he says, is what happened when he ran up against the violent competitive tactics common on streets now. "Milosevic's hand is hard." In the process, he faced armed thugs, hostile courts—and a well-connected oligarch—a Canadian located ingram—whose new says he is considering a hit to lead Serbia.

Markovic, a former Belgrade cab driver, returned home in 1990 with thousands of dollars from a group of Canadian investors and launched an eccentric paging company called Bel Pagette. It was an instant hit, but when Yugoslavia disintegrated into civil war he says, his Canadian backers became desperate. In December, 1995, they sold the firm for less than it was worth to billionaire Bogoljub Karic's group. When Markovic refused to endorse the deal, armed members of a violent militia raised his offices. Fearing for his life, Markovic fled to Romania, where he remains, trying to return and reclaim the company "that's ours," says Markovic, 49. "I want to go back to a free Serbia."

Opposition leaders in Belgrade say the experience of Markovic and the Canadian investors is not unusual. Dozens of businesses have been raid, looted and scores of foreign inventors have seen their money snatched by Serbia's thriving underworld. Many analysts believe Milosevic will eventually be ousted by the pro-democracy activists who last month forced him to recognize opposition victories in local elections after three months of street demonstrations. But in the meantime, critics say he is rigging relatives and their cronies control of state monopolies and taking over private businesses. Oppressed citizens have been enlisted to help in the looting, and critics claim that one media-style rioter occurs every day.

Democratic party leader Zoran Djordje-



Markovic shows off his product in Romania: armed thugs, hostile courts—and a kidnapper



A Canadian businessman claims foul play in Serbia

now Belgrade's envoys, believe there are direct parallels between the Bel Pagette fiasco and the demonstrations that followed the announcement of the elections last November. "In both cases it shows there is no security in the legal sense in Serbia," he told Markovic. "We have no democracy and we have no economic rights." For Bel Pagette's Canadian owners, escaping Serbia would pose both difficult and dangerous—and even draw the attention of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

Markovic launched Bel Pagette follow-

ing a chance meeting at a fitness club in Toronto in 1989 with Julie Linn, an accountant. Markovic, a bombastic man with a penetrating stare, told Linn about his dream of becoming rich by transforming Yugoslavia's ancient communications network through electronic paging. Linn was so impressed that he brought together a dozen investors from the Toronto area, many of whom would contribute their life's savings to the deal. On Nov. 22, 1990, they agreed to advance Markovic \$1.3 million (U.S.) over 10 years, and in return they were to receive 75 per cent of the company's profits during that period. "When Zoran Markovic told me how he would like to invest money in this country, I praised the idea," said Linn. "I knew what foreign capital means for a country in development."

Markovic immediately left for Belgrade, and within a year Bel Pagette had become Serbia's largest mobile telecommunications firm, with 20,000 subscribers and 400 employees. But just a year after the launch, Yugoslavia plunged into war and the United Nations hit Serbia with stiff economic sanctions.

With cash on the wane, worse by the day, the Canadian investors wanted him to sell the Belgrade company, of which he was the registered owner. They were also enraged when Markovic refused to send them their share of the profits as promised. "I was writing for the end of the UN embargo to settle the problem with the Canadians," notes Markovic. "But then, they wanted out of Serbia."

When Markovic continued to balk at selling, the Canadians turned to Toronto immigration lawyer Cliff Rothberg and international law firm Dentons. Linn's lawyer, Alan E. Mark, who agreed to help the Canadians in return for a commission on the sale of Bel Pagette. They then contacted Vojislav Vuksic, a Belgrade businessman who represented their interests in Yugoslavia and who also had high-level contacts in the Belgrade-based Karic bank. The bank is part of the Karic bank-

group, a billion-dollar Serbian finance and media empire owned by the Karic family—four brothers and a sister from the impoverished region of Kosovo. Over the past four years three of the Karic brothers, Bogoljub, Dragomir and Slobodan, have received landed immigrant status in Canada under a business category in which Ottawa grants residency to wealthy foreigners who invest between \$250,000 and \$500,000 or more in Canada. "The family is working towards moving their operations to Canada," says Toronto businessman Robert Moorehouse, who also worked on the Bel Pagette case.



Opposition leader Djordjevic during demonstrations: 'We have no democracy and no economic rights'

with Markovic. Vuksic. "They should be here within five years."

Opposition politicians in Belgrade, however, say the Karics are benefiting from the disintegration of their own country. They claim Milosevic helped create the Karic bank in 1989 to finance Serb rebellions in Bosnia and Croatia and to divert money out of Serbia to the safety of the bank's well-protected operation in Cyprus. Under the UN embargo, the brothers' bank accounts outside Yugoslavia were frozen because of fears they believed they were moving government money out of the country and taking over public and private companies on behalf of Milosevic. The Karic bank was shut when UN sanctions ended, but in Belgrade many people still believe the Karics are helping the administration. "They are protecting for Milosevic financially and are carrying out certain financial transactions abroad for the regime," says Ridge Price, a respected Belgrade attorney who represented Markovic.

"They are an economic arm of the regime." But Bogoljub Karic, perhaps believing that Milosevic's days are numbered, now says he is considering a challenge to the stranglehold the leadership of the country. According to reports in Belgrade's independent dailies a last week, he says he wants to form his own center-left party with other former members of the ruling Socialists. Karic told Markovic in a statement, "I wish Serbia to become a modernized society like Canada. I wish political freedom and the advantages of a liberal marketplace and social justice." Even some of his own advisers,

private. Then, legal investigators showed up to investigate the firm's financial statements and detained the firm's general manager and its financial chief. "They spent a month going through Bel Pagette's books," says Markovic. "In the end, they could find no evidence to suggest the company had done anything wrong."

Increasingly frustrated by Markovic, Vuksic summoned several Bel Pagette executives and his lawyers to his home in Belgrade on Oct. 19, 1995. Markovic refused to attend. Vuksic said that the Canadians, still desperate to get their money out of Serbia, had given him 20 per cent management rights to the company, which would make it easier to sell the firm to the Karic brothers. Vuksic filed the expropriation plan with a Serbian court, but when one judge indicated she was about to reject the application, it was withdrawn and resubmitted to a second judge who approved it. The independent Serbian newspaper "Nove Novosti" reported yesterday that the first judge "seems not to have fully understood the demand and she had the case taken away from her."

Following the judgment, Vuksic showed up at the Bel Pagette offices, but security guards turned him away. He returned five days later with a representative of the Karic bank and a court warrant. Markovic then appealed to two higher courts to have the deal with Vuksic voided. Markovic lost, but no one familiar with politics in Serbia was surprised. The president of the Constitutional Court that ruled against him was the same person who presided over the election committee that nullified the municipal elections. "Our system is a combination of Chinese communism and South American mafia," says opposition leader Djordjevic. "Our socialist ideology, but they don't like capitalism."

When Markovic still refused to recognize the court's decision, the mounting question turned into a test of wills between Markovic and the Karics. Both sides denounced one another in the Belgrade media and the brothers met almost daily to plot strategy. Then, on the night of Dec. 12, 1995, gunmen belonging to the notorious "Tigers" militia, which fought in Bosnia, is headed by Zeljko "Arkan" Račić, who is wanted in several European countries for murder and extortion, even had involvement in organized crime. Markovic, fearing he would be murdered, fled to Romania. "If everything is legal then you come with your business," he says. "These people came with guns in the middle of the night."

Within 24 hours of the raid, the Karics



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The Empire Strikes Out

COVER

BY JENNIFER WELLS

It was a sweltering September day in 1990. The crabapples just beginning to fall from the trees outside Trinity Eaton Memorial Church, the temperature in the low 30s. Everybody who was anybody in the Toronto Establishment was there. The Bassets, John and Isabel The Westons, Galen and Hilary Hal Jackman, then Ontario's lieutenant governor, St. Clair Barker, of Vaughan lineage, in a brown suit, carrying a briefcase; Dick Thompson, head of the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

All had gathered to see their last respects to Sir Guy Eaton, the matriarch of the Eaton clan, wife of John David who had led the family's mighty retail chain in the halcyon days of the 1950s and 1960s, when the company controlled half of the country's department store sales. Atop the burrard-and-ashley bay four zinc-steamed porcupines and in front of the bier sat the four hand-some wives in whose hands Sir Guy Eaton had left the family jewels: Fred, John Craig, Thor and George.

Even then, the then-young private Eaton clan was beginning to realize that the company's retail operations were in dire straits. "Mourning gifts," white-pedigree Notary, said the coroner. Last week, the evidence landed at last: Eaton's has not just been losing money, it has been hemorrhaging red ink. Now, the 86-store chain is closing and an Ontario court has granted the company bankruptcy protection while it radically restructures. On page 4 of the company's court filing is a simple, yet devastating, declarative sentence: "The applicants are insolvent."

George Eaton leads the way on a mere walk through the corporate headquarters of the Eaton clan, stock in a corporate tower that rises from the middle of the chain's



In the past five years,
the company's revenues
have tumbled by
\$500 million

Eaton Centre in downtown Toronto. Scratched on the glass walls outside the various office sanctuaries are moths, hornets, snakes of poetry. "Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go," says one, quoting T. S. Eliot. Outside Eaton's own office is written: "All work is God's work. Honour your creator and fulfil yourself. Be the best you can be." The author is George Eaton, chief executive officer, The Eaton Co.

In this atmosphere, which feels more missionary than entrepreneurial, Eaton does not eat the pecan. He has had some nibbles lately, recently, an indication that the company has been preparing for this day. The family cornerstone was what carried Eaton's in the early '90s, the company deflated or in flux with a long-time leader, the TD Bank, Dick Thompson, the TD Bank's CEO, long-sit on the board of the parent company, Eaton's of Canada Ltd., along with the likes of Central Black and Doug Bassett. According to Eaton, the TD Bank then recruited a "bulge" loan

"They carried us through the fall," he says but the possibility of seeking bankruptcy protection hung in the air ever since.

The problem for the chain was chronic and long-term. Market share has shrunk in an average 11.4 per cent of department store sales, half that of three-year-old Mid-Mart Canada. The company lost \$120 million on a pre-tax basis last year, or a revenue of \$1.63 billion. Two years before that it lost \$80 million. Revenues have slid sharply, by \$500 million over the past five years. So Eaton's needed a long-term financial commitment from two chief leaders, the TD Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia. "From a go-forward basis that the Bank plan was unacceptable," says Eaton. "We didn't think the financing package was enough to take us through the next two years." The package offered by the banks was "in the \$250-million range." The company was looking for \$450 million. Worse, in Eaton's view, was the bank's demand, made just after Christmas, that the company put up its retail inventory as security against the new financing. That would have slowed the banks, which together are over \$100 million, to jump the creditors' queue, ahead of the company's employees and suppliers. This, Eaton's would not do. "The long-term relationship with the banks would have given the company the last two years," says one bankruptcy lawyer. "Eventually they ran out of patience."

Three weeks ago, says Eaton, he again raised with the banks the possibility of seeking bankruptcy protection. "They said we should try to avoid that," says Eaton of those conversations with the company's leaders. He adds: "The banks treated us well, 100%." And we had a good relationship with the banks for a long time." In the end, the banks were taken by surprise by the suddenness of last week's move. Charles Scott, Scotiabank's lawyer, said at the court hearing that the banks were caught off guard, and questioned the propriety of a transfer in December of an estimate of \$10 million from the retail company to the family-controlled parent company, Eaton's of Canada Ltd. Asked about this by Mervyn, Eaton would only say that it was a "strategic occurrence."

"Two years ago, it was clear we were in trouble," Eaton adds. He cites three key motivating factors for the company's problems: the excessive increase into Canadian "bigbox" and specialty outlets, the persistent consumer-spending gloom that has refused to change since the last recession, and the company's wrong "asset-light" strategy. Gone were the listed Toronto Canada sales, \$800 million, "we felt we could turn it around," says Eaton of the way the company looked two years ago. "The plan was for revenue to start to go back to a more proportional calendar to focus on customer service. It was working. But there was not enough profit, not enough capital." Last year, the everyday low pricing strategy was finally dismantled. Real estate assets were sold, and the net proceeds pumped into new retail locations to make "strategic" revenue. "Now, there's a lot to be done," says Eaton. "I think we'll have to be shutdown, though. Eaton will not

be more precise than between 10 and 40. "There is insufficient consumer demand to support many of the company's stores," the court documents say. "After taking into account the direct and indirect costs of operation, approximately \$42 million is lost from the operation of each store annually. When they are closed, thousands of jobs will disappear from a current staff of more than 15,000. This is not an easy time," says Eaton. "There will be closures. There will be job losses. Sometimes, you have to go through that to save the core, save the majority."

The shock waves were felt everywhere. "It's scary when you have announcements like this," says Amrit Veracharia, president of Home Depot Canada. "Report of Eaton's Report of our history." Peter Angus Reid worries about the impact at the regional level. "There are some cities where Eaton's has been almost like the grain elevator," says Reid, calling the closures to come a "Symbolic" loss. A colleague at Eaton's in Regina reflected on the stark reality for employees. "I don't think anyone's job is safe," he said. "There's no question there will be some big changes and some stores will close. The mood is pretty sombre, but what do you expect?" In Vancouver, shopper Jim McCarron, 58, said the downtown store since a month. "We've already lost Woodwards," he said, referring to the long-time department store chain that folded in 1993. "For goodness sake, we don't want to lose Eaton's, too." In Montreal, general manager Raymond Picard handled the news conference over a chair of the company. He had to answer to the likes of Yann Guidolin, a Montreal lawyer who represents seven Eaton's creditors, mostly clothing manufacturers. That Goldstein says are owed millions of dollars. Goldstein pressed Picard on behalf of suppliers whose payments are already more than 90 days in arrears. "You still accepted millions and millions of dollars of merchandise delivered by suppliers in good faith. What do you plan to do to protect these creditors?" Picard responded. Under the restructuring plan, all merchandise delivered from this point forward will be paid in full. Goldstein pressed Picard about merchandise previously delivered. "The restructuring plan will minimize the consequences of those debts," said Picard.

Women's fashion manufacturer Peter Nygard used to be Eaton's largest supplier, but he says he is not at all surprised by this latest development. He says he scaled back his business with the company deliberately because he was "totally in disagreement with their merchandising strategy. They were running the business with a bunch of accountants instead of geeks who knew anything about merchandising." Other retailers were working towards closer and fewer, supplier relationships, says Nygard. But not Eaton's. "There are all sorts

different suppliers who always have to bid against each other. It's like a big competitive, centrally driven system that's confrontational instead of co-operative. And the customer gets confused because you don't stand for anything—everything keeps shifting."

When Nygard speaks of "accountants," he is referring to Tim Reid, who was the company's chief operating officer until last fall, when, according to the company, he took retirement at the age of 55. For years, Reid was the most public management face the company offered up to the world. Reid was an Eaton's veteran, but came up through the credit card business was not a merchandiser like still sits on the board of the parent company.

"It just seems they were fond of juggling around," says Dave Brodie, a retail analyst with CIBC Wood Gundy in Toronto. Brodie's community has been locally interested to see how many numbers out of

Eaton's, which, as a private company, they never really completed to disclose. Brodie was certainly surprised by the sum of the losses revealed in the court documents. Those are "inconceivable" losses, he says. "The company dropped \$300 million." Pshaw!

The company now has a little more than three months to file a detailed plan of arrangement with the court, charting the course for the company's future. In the bank's view, Eaton's has turned to General Electric Capital Canada Inc. for both a revolving credit line of up to \$300 million and a further \$100 million in loans to ensure the continuation of the company's vital credit card operation. T Eaton Acceptance Co. Profits from the credit card operation in 1996 reached \$22 million. Thirty-five per cent of store sales are made with Eaton's credit cards, which still bear an interest rate of 38.8 per cent. Eaton's has been most desperate to protect this turf. The company was very lax in accepting the credit cards of outsiders, not succumbing to American Express until the mid-1970s and later to Visa and MasterCard. The stores still do not accept debit cards, or popular with Canadian consumers. "We have

looked at the debit card, but we have not accepted it," says Eaton. Why not? "For a couple of reasons I don't want to mention."

Then, it did. The evidence. As recently as a year and a half ago, Reid and other corporate management were saying that the retail operations were making money. Those statements were not true. "No," says Eaton. "Those statements were not true. Does that tell the Eaton story?" No.

George Eaton is waiting for his brother J.C., the召集者 who brought John Craig Fred to him. As has been All the brothers need to be together for the photo shoot. This is George's idea. And he has brought in a surprising group of senior management. The "store" he says, meaning the Eaton's stores collectively, "is so much larger than one individual, it's meaning himself."

But it's George Eaton's dream to always consider it as "former racing-car driver George," who runs the company. J.C. is chairman of the parent company, but is not involved in the day-to-day. Fred Eaton used to be his brother's love to Canada's high commissioner in London in 1991, and never took back the reins, though he keeps a mostly unoccupied office in Toronto. Thor Eaton raises eyebrows and has dissociated himself from company management. Though, like his brothers, he sits on the board.

George Eaton is extremely private and certainly does not come across as a "wildcat," as some one who knows him in his racing days describes

Toronto Eaton Centre (below), the original store in 1877, remodelling not risk



him. He has three sons and of this personal life, well, only says that "there is George Eaton has an extremely formulaic, family life."

Eaton has a fond childhood memory of running the company during its toughest days ever. "When they portion out the assets of the store, I mean, I was the CEO and I am the principal responsible person, I don't have trouble with that," he says.

He says he has been honored by the show of support across the board, the many suppliers and customers who hope Eaton's will come through. His daughter, But Eaton well knows that if it does make it through, the company will not only be much changed, but may well be under different ownership. There is bound to be another buyer, he says. The company has suffered less severely it is troubled. The United States' J.C. Penney chain has been a rumored buyer for years. "Very likely everybody will have a look at it in the end and few results," says Brodie of CIBC Wood Gundy.

At his news conference last week, Eaton said that the company was not "looking for a buyer right now, but if one showed up it would be irresponsible of us not to talk to him." He adds the re-structuring will be necessary to make it attractive. "In a lot of interviews, Eaton would not say whether the company had ever signed a confidentiality agreement with any interested purchaser. "That's a best way out question," he says. He does not get philosophical about how utterly strange it would seem to have non-Eaton, particularly American non-Eaton, running the venerable chain. As the inter-views would go, Eaton says he would like to say one more thing. "I would like to say come in and shop with us," he says. "We're here. We're ready. If you haven't been in in a while, come in and give us a try." The statement seems rather awkward, like an advertising novice trying out new slogan. But at the same time, it sounds absolutely sincere, so sincere, so unlike advertising. "Good wishes," says Eaton simply, "will not save the day."

Last week was meant to be party week at the flagship Eaton store in downtown Toronto, celebrating the 20 years ago when John Craig Eaton stood through the opening day shaking hand after hand of Eaton's customers. But as staff handed out coupons offering up to 40 per cent off, as the orange, pink and purple balloons swirled in the air as the Eaton's was set to be its store jungle gym through the newly renovated concourse floor, the place was dead as a doornail. The die-hard financial aid did not help the crowd. "We stopped here all day—50 years," one woman. "Know there are other places to go to, but if something ever went wrong with what I bought here I was always able to do something about it." The Eaton's guarantee— "Goods satisfactory or money refunded"—as synonymous with the Eaton's name on Tuesday. A human statue held the sign for good luck. On the weekend, the four brothers returned to remind Canadians of that legacy. But in Edmonton and Vancouver they went to walk the shop their Statue hands. "We didn't at least that Eaton's is down," But to argue that it and out

George, John Craig, Tim and Fred Eaton (center) with senior management, stock photo

EATON FAMILY HOLDINGS

RETAIL

The T Eaton Co. Ltd. operates 86 department stores, with subsidiary companies in travel, food, and delivery services and drug distribution.

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A separate holding, Eaton Credit Corp., owns the T Eaton Acceptance Co. and Eaton Credit Card Trust.

REAL ESTATE

Eaton's of Canada Ltd. has interests in 15 shopping centres, including 20 per cent of the Toronto Eaton Centre. In November, the company sold its 33-per-cent stake in Vancouver's Pacific Centre, as well as interests in two other regional shopping centres in Montreal and one in Victoria.

BROADCASTING

The family owns 52 per cent of Toronto-based Baton Broadcasting Inc., the largest single shareholder in the CTV television network. Baton, which owns TV stations in every province except Manitoba, Quebec and Newfoundland, last week increased its stake in CTV to 57 per cent from 43 per cent.

—By BRIAN BRANSTWELL in Montreal, DAVID PARALEKES in Toronto, DALE RISNER in Calgary and SCOTT STEELE in Vancouver

The decline of a dynasty

Over time, Eaton's lost Timothy's drive

BY RAE CORELLI

*Business, dear friends,
is a source of gratification
of dollars and cents*

—Eaton's catalogue, 1893

For generations, it was an inimitable, defining symbol of Canada's steel, like buckwheat and the RCMP. From an unremarkable beginning on 19th-century Toronto's ratred, seat-stained and map-dotted lower Yonge Street, Timothy Eaton's dry goods store flourished with the country to become a merchandising empire—scrupulously dependable, seemingly invulnerable. So when the fire broke last week that the empire had flourished to the brink of bankruptcy, Canadians reacted as disbelievingly as they had when the Soviet Union first invaded their hockey team. Hackneyed queries over whether Eaton's dues will depend on negotiations and the resilience of the redoubtable dynasty its founder created. "Many enterprises have gone through difficult times and emerged stronger and better," said Bill Mair, spokesman Edward Gerald. "Don't count Eaton's out."

If the strength of a family's roots means anything, then it is probably a sound assessment. The fourth-generation Eatonman who launched the family business was a tough commercial warrior. The most important theme in Timothy Eaton's entrepreneurial life, says biographer Jim Stothard, "is that of competition." Eaton was born in 1850. Nor them. By 1870, Eaton, one of nine children raised by his widowed mother Aliza, was led by a general store 10 miles from home, walked there and back and worked 14 hours a day. After seven years, he had built enough. In 1876, he followed the example of his brothers and two sisters and emigrated to Canada, settling in the village of St. Marys, near Stratford, Ont.

Timothy's first venture was a disaster. He started a bakery at St. Marys, which folded a few months later in 1871 in the face of stiff competition. Eaton simply rented another space and noticed his customers that he was switching from bread to dry goods, boots and shoes and paint and medicines, which would be "sold cheap and for cash." He did little except work, even tolling an acquaintance: "You know, Charlie, we never close the store in the



On delivery in 1910; founder Timothy Eaton (left); a company that once employed 30,000



COURTESY OF EATON'S

evening while there is anybody on the street."

But Eaton tired of St. Marys and in 1880, when he was 30, he moved his family to Toronto where he paid \$2,500 for the Yonge Street dry goods business known as Belhaven House. He later complained to his brother about the poor quality of the stock—"old stuff, no use here." There were more than a dozen dry goods stores within a five-block radius and Timothy had his hands full. "The past two years have been a hard task and I will yet take a long pull and a strong pull," he wrote his brother Robert in 1870. "But it's all right—we are made to work and as long as the Lord gives me a continuation of health and energy I am determined to work and work with a will." A year later, Stothard, didn't help any when he opened yet another shop, which became the seed of the Simpson's retail chain. Eaton insisted that it took a lot of customers those days to make a pile of money.

He did them in, the business flourished and the staff grew so rapidly that it occasionally got out of control. Neophyte John James Eaton, hired as a manager, reported that department stores were quarrelling with one another and "he had to adjourn to a saloon for a cooling, icy and impudent." At the same time, Timothy displayed moments of compassion when six male employees



EATON'S TORONTO STORE IN 1917; 1904 CATALOGUE (BELOW) QUICK TO INSTITUTE INNOVATIONS

volunteered for active service during the North-West Rebellion in 1885, the proprietor held their jobs for them.

And he was quick to innovate. By the mid-1880s, his store had the novelty of electric lights and a sprinkler system, which came in handy when Robert Simpson's store burned to the ground, leaving his neighbor only singed. In 1884, Eaton distributed his first catalog, 12 pages. He staged Grand Fireworks Concerts to attract the off-street trade, and his ads describe the store as "one of the best such as in the city where goods are all marked in plain figures and sold at one price to rich and poor alike." He often lectured his staff on the value of truth in advertising, but once said: "If you boasting, do it right." Yet he made believe his overconfidence—the long-standing pledge of "goods satisfactory or money refunded" became an industry standard.

Toward the century's end, Eaton's aggressive sales and advertising methods began angering smaller merchants. He endorsed protest, rallies and political pressure groups until it became clear that department stores were not going to win. In fact, the reverse was true—in 1895, Eaton opened a Winnipeg store of five floors. However, the Irish underground from Ballymote was meeting the end of the road. At 10:50 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31, 1907, Timothy Eaton died of pneumonia in his Toronto home, leaving an estate at \$3,250,000. More than 200 carriages and several thousand mourners followed the bier from Mount Pleasant Cemetery. His legacy: stores in Winnipeg and Toronto, factories in Toronto and Oshawa, tie-rope factories in London and Paris and 9,000 employees.

At 30, John Craig Eaton was the first in a long and uninterrupted line of Eaton's to succeed to the presidency. Timothy had been absent, re-serve and a devout Methodist. John Craig was an unctuous playboy who bought fancy cars, a yacht and race horses. He spent large sums of money on top hats and buffaloes in London. When Toronto's Jewish garment workers went on strike to end themselves of sweatshops, John C's first offer was to simply re-instate the workers—provided they apologized. The strike collapsed three months later.

Knighted by George V for his contributions during the First World War, Sir John in 1919 gave the company's 18,000 employees the 3½-day week. In July and August, they could take off the entire day of Saturday as well. He claimed no credit, telling associates that he was just "carrying out my father's wishes." Three years later, he died at 48. His widow, Lady Eaton, raised their six children—and proved ed critics with endless innovation. Women's suffrage, she once said, was a "necessity," particularly "because it is not restricted to intelligent women." She held out the Eaton promise-priority until 1942 when her son, John David Eaton, became president. (He never had the job for 30 years.) She died at 91 in 1970.

Midway through the Second World War, Eaton's had reached an all-time high of 30,000. In the 1960s, the company's dominance began to fade in the face of increasing competition from Simpsons-Sears and the growth of specialty retailers. In poor health, John David Eaton retired in 1969 when the empire was reported to be worth \$400 million. When a reporter asked him if he had ever used his clout to muzzle newspaper stories about the family, he replied: "Wouldn't you?" John D.'s legendary bona fide, Sunny Hilda Eaton, who travelled the world with him in private planes to collect antiques or vacation at their estate in Antigua, died in 1992.

In 1973, Fred Eaton was named president of the company and went on to serve as Canadian High Commissioner to London. Fred had a needlepoint quotation from Miss Langton, his only son's wife, in the Toronto Eaton Centre. It read: "Pessimists who despair of optimism soon find out that their houses are not reliable. The whole situation will change when the tree falls and the monkeys scatter." In the Eaton empire, the tree has not yet fallen, but the monkeys are definitely nervous. □



Retail's red ink

In a frugal age, only the toughest survive

BY JOHN SCHOFIELD

A moment of silence, please, to remember the dearly departed. First there was Simpson's, closed by its owner, the Hudson's Bay Co., in 1991 after 115 years in business. Woodward's Ltd. of Vancouver hit the dust in 1992 and was then swallowed by the Bay. That same year, Robson's Department Stores Ltd. of Mississauga, Ont., closed as centring these locations in Ontario. The casualty list goes on. Woolworth Canada Inc. shuttered 380 stores in 1992, throwing 3,000 people out of work. Kmart Canada Ltd. discontinued the Kanga chain in 1994. And just last month, Gymboree Inc. of Brampton closed its 189 Greenberg and Metropole stores. The latest to enter the retirement care ward is what Toronto retail consultant Len Kalush calls "the era of Canadian retailing"—The Eaton's Co. Ltd., which fled for bankruptcy protection last week after hemorrhaging \$120 million in 2006 alone. To put it mildly, the 1990s have been an ugly decade for Canadian retailing. "We've seen an erosion in the sales of the major department stores going back five years," says Kalush. "They've just been clobbered."

And the gloom is not over yet. Major department stores such as Eaton's—once the unassailable temple of conspicuous consumption—have hit the hardline, pinched by a host of aggressive discount chains and "big-box" specialty stores. Since 1985, major department stores have slipped from 15 per cent of total retail sales to nine per cent last year, according to Statistics Canada. On the bright side, a predicted rise in consumer spending this year and next should help many of the survivors return to profitability—but that even so, retailing will remain a high-risk pursuit. Among the looming threats is the Internet, which allows shoppers to price or order directly with manufacturers, bypassing the retail middleman.

Ironically, the latest signs of turmoil in retail came at a time when recession-wrecked consumers are once again beginning to reach for their wallets. With interest rates near 10-year lows, Canadian retail spending started to pick up in the last few months of 1996. Fifty-eight per cent of those questioned in a recent survey by the



Browsing at Home Depot, a Toronto discount store (left). The 1990s have been an ugly decade for Canadian retailing

the music died for department stores was when they started charging for delivery," he says. "It's been a legacy that they've been carrying for the past 15 years."

Off the beaten path, department stores such as Eaton's had a strong hold on the hearts and pocketbooks of middle- and upper-income Canadians. They stayed even further from their traditional clientele during the handicapped days of the early 1990s, when cash-strapped retail chains targeted bargain hunters. "They got caught up in the price game because they let them stay away from it," says Fratino. "The industry has been for all retailers to gravitate to the same part of the market."

Lured to the crowded lower end of the market, the majors barely stood a chance against the legions of price-cutting. Challenging them was U.S.-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which has 43 per cent of the Canadian discount market only three years after entering the country. The established chains have also been battered by a proliferation of "category killers"—discount specialty chains such as Future Shop in electronics, The Brick and Leon's in furniture and appliances, and SportsChek in sporting goods. Consumers who once naturally gravitated to Saks or the Bay in their television or refrigerators have been choosing the big-box stores in increasing numbers.

The rise of specialty and warehouse stores reached a fever pitch at the beginning of the decade. Many of them, such as the Price Club and Costco—which have since merged—

Conference Board of Canada, an Ottawa-based economic research group, said now is a good time to make a major purchase—the highest level since 1987.

Still, nobody suggests that Canadians are about to return to the free-spending ways of the 1980s. Spoiled by the recession and wane of corporate and public-sector downsizing, shoppers have entered the era of "fiscally frugality," says Mel Fratino, a consultant and former vice-president of the Retail Council of Canada. Loyalty to one store is a relic of the past; shoppers go wherever they can get the best value. "The consumer is much more fickle and demanding," says Amriti Verchawala, president of Home Depot Canada, a 31-store chain that specializes in home-improvement products.

The department stores' largest mistake was never knowing exactly who their customers were. Kalush traces the industry's decline

to hardened veterans of the American retailing battleground. Together, they brought a new, take-no-prisoners mentality to Canadian retailing—top it off with sophisticated inventory-management software that pared distribution costs to the bone.

But even the category killers are looking a lot less deadly in the face of today's field competitors. SportChek Inc., of Mississauga, recently reported that it's closing 11 of its Canadian stores after sales dropped 25 per cent in November and December. Its Canadian rival, SportChek Group Ltd., has said it may close as many as 37 of its 120 stores, including some SportChek and Sports Experts outlets. Home Depot declared last year to close its pace of expansion in Canada, with plans to open eight stores this year instead of 39. "The life spans of retail concepts are shortening all the time," says Jim Oshansky, a retail consultant with the J.C. Williams Group. "Home Depot seems to have had a long run, but category killers had a very short run. We see them as surmounting the market steady."

In fact, an overcrowded market may be the real reason why the retail industry is in such turmoil. There are simply too many stores in Canada. "Increased competition has led to a severe price discounting and a resulting confection in operating margins to unsustainable low levels," a study by Donmar Bent's Retail Service concluded earlier this year.

In all likelihood, therefore, the bloodbath will continue. By the time its restructuring plan is complete, Eaton's may have to close in as many as 40 of its 85 stores. Unicrust also hangs over Kmart Canada Ltd.'s 122 stores, which have been rumored to be in trouble for over a year. Some might be resurrected under the Zellers banner, while others could be picked up by such chains as Canadian Tire, says analyst George Hartman. But not all are expected to survive.

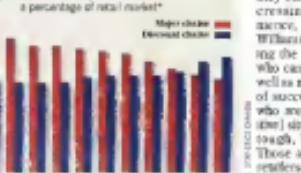
Kalush, for one, believes there will still be an important role for mainstream department stores in the years ahead. He points to the success of Sears, Roebuck and Co. in the United States. "When Sears bought out Arthur Martz Inc. from outside the company as CED, he really reorganized the company and did a great job at re-organizing it," he says. Martz—banned away from Saks Fifth Avenue in 1992—thrived on a five-year, \$3.4-billion overhaul to sharpen the retail giant's focus on its core customers—women between the ages of 25 and 55. "The company earned \$4.7 billion in 1996, a far cry from the \$2.7 billion in losses it racked up in 1992."

In this country, analysts are encouraged by the performances of Sears Canada Inc. and the Bay. Share prices for both companies have climbed steadily as a result of recent efforts to cut costs and improve efficiency. Sears lost 11,200 employees last year, while the Bay and Zellers moved their head offices to trim expenses. The companies are also warming the confidence of investors with new initiatives. Sears Canada plans to open 28 home furnishing stores over the next three years, while the Bay is a participant in World Avenue, an on-line shopping mall being developed in partnership with IBM that is due to open this fall.

When all is said and done, the key to success in today's rapidly evolving marketplace has not changed from the days of Timothy Eaton: give the customers what they want. One commodity that is increasingly in demand is convenience, says Oshansky of the J.C. Williams Group. The retailers making the greatest strides are those who can save their patrons time as well as money. "There are a number of successful retailers out there who are dealing with the [long-distance] situation," says Oshansky. "It's tough, but it's not impossible." Those are encouraging words for retailers who are determined to be more than a memory in a available supermarket's aisle.

GOING UP, GOING DOWN

Major and discount department store sales as a percentage of retail market*



IT ALSO COMES IN BLACK

It remembers names and phone numbers.
It sends E-mail and faxes from your laptop.
It reminds you of important messages. It calls
your voicemail, emergency 911 and 2 other
numbers of your choice at the touch of a key.
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Ross Laver

Personal Business

Death of a car salesman

For the past 20 years, the Gallop organization has asked a random sample of Americans to grade 26 occupations on their honesty and ethical standards. Every year, the same group has had the dubious distinction of finishing dead last.

Surprise—the personal losers are not lawyers, politicians or even journalists. For a not-so-visible clue to the identity of the accursed group, consider that man singularly from a recent profile in *The Globe and Mail*: "Peter Pashigian, 35, is the owner of the NIH's Edmonton, Alberta, car critics point out he once was a car salesman."

Yes, it is a sad day when a one's chosen line of work becomes a term of opprobrium. Are car salesmen by nature a bunch of pushy, fast-talking manipulators? Of course not. The abusive selling tactics that make car buying so unpleasant are the inevitable result of an archaic, grossly inefficient distribution system. The fact that cars are still sold mostly through exclusive licensed dealers—and that most car salespeople are commissioned agents—causes that almost every negotiation becomes a suspicion-laden struggle between buyer and seller. The vehicles in the showroom may be new, but for too many purchasers wind up feeling used.

Fortunately, our revolution is on the brink of a long-overdue revolution. In the same way that discount operators and "category killers" magnates have driven many traditional retailers to their knees, automobile superstores staffed by salaried "sales consultants" are poised to take the car business by storm. Over time, their presence will change the way cars are manufactured as well as how they're sold.

Like most retail revolutions, this one originated south of the border. CarMax, an offshoot of the giant Circuit City electronics chain, fired the opening salvo in 1990 when it launched America's first used-car superstore in Birmingham, Ala. The company now has seven locations in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida and plans to expand considerably more.

build 75 more across the United States over the next five years. Next came AutoNation USA, headed by Blockbuster Video founder Wayne Huizenga. Both firms have huge suburban sites with as many as 1,000 cars, negotiable prices, bumper-to-bumper war-rantees, risk-carry exchange policies, child play areas and touch-screen computers to help customers find what they want.

Now, those same no-nonsense selling techniques are being applied to the selling of new vehicles. A year ago, CarMax signed a deal with Chrysler to open one of its new auto dealerships in Atlanta under a new-car franchise. Chrysler president Robert Lutz termed the agreement a "wake-up call for dealers." More recently, AutoNation has forged alliances with large Ford and Chevrolet dealerships. Although neither CarMax nor AutoNation has yet made noises about coming to Canada, some analysts believe it is only a matter of time before those and other operators' drive more of North America's family-owned dealerships out of business.

Business "Not only are car dealers widely discounted, but they're part of an inefficient, costly distribution structure," says Ben Grant, vice-president of consulting firm A.T. Kearney Ltd. in Toronto. "It's inevitable that car manufacturers are going to be looking for alternate channels." Within a decade, Grant predicts, 50 per cent of all new-car purchases in Canada will take place outside traditional dealerships—if not through superstores, then through auto brokers, warehouse clubs and a rapidly swelling number of Internet buying services with names like Auto-By-711 and AutoWantage. Dealers may not like it, but customers will get the cars they want with less anxiety, and probably a lower price. And if the recent history of other retail sectors is any guide, the new superstores will exert growing pressure on automakers to respond more quickly to consumer demand—rather than pushing vehicles on to the market and then doctoring up marketing schemes to sell them. Thus, maybe, car salesmen will begin to resemble more respect.



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The price of saving the CPP

She never did expect much money when she retired—but Anita Castelli has always counted on the Canada Pension Plan. The 58-year-old casket tycoon was horrified two years ago when actuaries announced that the fund was in danger of running out of money by 2013. So she was mightily relieved last month when Ottawa and the provinces agreed to overhaul the pension in order to rebuild its reserves. Castelli, who is semi-retired, has two grown children, a small pension from the elementary school where she worked for a week and “not enough” in RRSPs to see her through old age with dignity. “I have no big ambitions because there is no money to have big ambitions,” says Castelli, who earns \$22,000 a year. “But I wouldn’t even think to think about the future if the CPP disappeared.”

Last month’s agreement will ensure that the safety net remains in place—but today’s workers, especially those now under the age of 30, will pay a steep price. CPP benefits will remain largely intact and fully indexed to inflation. Current pensioners—and those who retire before Dec. 31—will see no change in their assessment of fully paid, or nearly \$725. For future retirees, benefits will be based on the average of the past five years of earnings—instead of the past three years. In effect, the pension amounts for most recipients will be two to four per cent lower than under the old system. In return, however, employee contributions will skyrocket from a maximum of \$807.125 per year at 1990 to \$1,035 in 2003. “Those increases were important to the plan—and this is a plan worth saving,” says the Liberal’s Tugman, vice-president of the Canadian Institute of Social Policy. “But the increases will hit low-income workers disproportionately hard and exacerbate inter-generational tensions.”

In retrospect, the warning was on the wall for the CPP from the moment that Ontario’s account was moved into the future. Introduced in 1986, the CPP was founded on the principle that today’s workers would pay for today’s pensioners. Currently, five working-age Canadians support each person who is 65 and over. By 2030, however, there will be only three working-age Canadians for each pensioner—a consequence of the



CARMEL KIRBY: Kirby's workers will carry a heavy financial burden to ensure the CPP's survival

huge bulge of baby boomers. To lessen the burden on future generations, Ottawa and the provinces are raising rates to build up a five-year surplus. Today a worker will pay for today’s—and tomorrow’s—pensioners.

The burden will be especially heavy on low-income contributors. Employee-contribution premiums, which are shared equally, will rise from 5.91 per cent of earnings—up to an income ceiling of \$55,800 a year—to 6.36 per cent in 2003. And the annual exemption of \$2,500 will no longer be indexed to inflation. Both measures will have a greater impact on

the scarce resources of low-income workers. As well, the cost will not be shared equally among the generations. An 85-year-old who starts work now would normally have to pay about 7.5 per cent of his CPP premiums—instead of the proposed 9.9 per cent—to finance that pension. “This is a wealth transfer from a generation that has no wealth,” says Garrett Press, 35, an analyst at J.P. Morgan Canada.

Still, there is a chance that premiums will decline if the CPP surplus—which is slated to grow from \$38 billion to about \$50 billion in 2011—is better invested. At present, provincial government pensions can borrow from the surplus at a favorable federal rate. In Quebec, an independent CPP investment board of 12 directors will divide the surplus between stocks and bonds—and the provinces will pay their own higher market rates. “On balance, this is going to be very positive in terms of giving more to the Canadian middle class,” says Warren Jeulin, chief economist at the Bank of Nova Scotia. That, in turn, should mean a more comfortable retirement for every Canadian.

OTTAWA'S NEW PENSION PLAN

Maximum CPP monthly benefit*

Proposed maximum annual employee premium**

Current system	Proposed
\$736	\$ 696
747	972
761	768
776	762
792	776
807	792
823	807

*Based on projected life-expectancy benefit

**For employees 55 and over

MARY JANIGAN

QUEBEC GOES GLOBAL

Federal regulators approved a bid to transform Quebec City station CKRM-TV, currently a CBC affiliate, into a member of Bell Atlantic’s Canadian Global system. Separately, the CRTC ordered Groupe Videotron to halt the takeover of Montreal-based CFCF until it finds a buyer for Télé-Québec Quatre Saisons. The move prevents Videotron from getting a monopoly on private French-language TV in the province.

HIBERNIA MATING RITUAL

Workers near Bell Arm, Nfld., completed the final stage at the evening of the two major components of the \$8.5-billion Hibernia oilfield at plateau. In June, tugboats are scheduled to tow the entire 204-metrel concrete-and-steel structure to its destination in the Jeanne d’Arc Basin near the Grand Banks.

TOUGHER RULES SOUGHT

An investment industry review panel has called for strict rules to protect small investors from conflicts of interest within brokerage firms. The committee, set up by the country’s four stock exchanges and the Investment Dealers Association of Canada, says that retail clients are often treated unfairly in comparison to brokerage brokers and other sophisticated investors.

SATELLITE ERA TO BEGIN

AlphaStar Canada Inc. of Milton, Ont., said that it will introduce Canada’s first direct-to-home satellite TV service in early in the year. The firm is among five companies that have been trying to sell satellite TV service using point-to-point dishes. AlphaStar will initially use a U.S. satellite, but says it will switch to a Canadian provider when one is available.

BE-X DEAL CONFIRMED

Calgary-based Be-X Minerals Ltd. signed a binding agreement to develop the world’s biggest gold deposit, in the Indonesian province of West Kalimantan. The deal formalizes a previously announced partnership between Be-X, New Orleans-based mining giant Freeport-McMoRan and two Indonesian firms. At the same time, the project participants confirmed that Be-X has the right to sell its 45-per-cent stake in the Busing gold find.

Stock market warnings

Alan Greenspan is afraid—very afraid. Less than three months after the chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board warned of “extremely explosive” senior stock market measures, Greenspan sounded an even louder alarm. “Excessive optimism sows the seeds of its own reversal,” he said in a report to Congress. He added that “pre-emptive policy tightening”—higher interest rates—might prove necessary to prevent a flare-up of inflation. On cue, nervous investors sent prices on the New York Stock Exchange tumbling. By the time the market closed on Friday, the Dow Jones composite index had dropped 360 points. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index lost about 90 points over the same two-day period.

Despite Greenspan’s warning, many analysts believe stocks will continue their spectacular



At the fence: Greenspan sounds an “excessive” alarm

gains. In an editorial published before Greenspan’s speech, the *Wall Street Journal* criticized the fed chief’s tendency to rein in growth. “There are plenty of signs out there that the economy is growing without inflation.”

The Big Mac special

McDonald’s Corp. is trying to dredge its U.S. competitors by slashing the price of its best-selling Big Mac to 55 cents (U.S.). The handbagger usually sells almost four times that. The tactic, dubbed Clamshell 55 for the year the change was made, is a desperation move aimed at winning back business from two archrivals, Burger King and Wendy’s. McDonald’s

has “been showing declining same-store sales in the United States for six quarters in a row and this is a move to reverse that trend,” said Dick Adams, who represents franchises. McDonald’s outlets will lose money on the deal, but the chain claims that more customers—and a repartement that the 55-cent Big Mac be purchased with a drink and fries—will cushion the blow. For now, the promotion will be offered only in the United States.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Canadian businesses are planning a healthy increase in capital spending this year. Statistics Canada survey indicates Housing will be among the growth leaders, while government, health care, retail trade and forestry are all poised for a decline in investment. The survey suggests that companies, as well as consumers, are beginning to respond to lower interest rates.

Statistics also reported that the country’s production of goods and services increased at an annual rate of 2.9 per cent in the last three months of 1995, slightly lower than forecasted last January.

If it was 9.7 for the October GNP smile, which cut deeply into U.S.-designed ship-

ments, Canada could have recorded one of its best third-quarter performances since the boom times of the mid-1980s.” —Scotiabank

“If the U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rates in the near term, the Bank of Canada would be expected to relax the pressure to follow in order to ensure that the economic expansion is not entrenched.” —Bank of Montreal

CAPITAL SPENDING

Business and public investment

change from previous year



“With auto production at eight year at the start of 1997, the current account is likely to shift back towards a balanced position, and overall GDP growth should approach four per cent.” —Nestle Burns



From dynastic myth to mere mortals

Only 25 years ago, the family's department store chain utilized Canadian retailing Eaton's own national style. The family lived like kings on company's private caravans and even created its own church. Eaton's was the country's fourth largest private company, making right behind the Bank of Montreal and Bell. The company's 65 stores moved goods worth \$25 million a year (plus \$1 million due to sales), while their catalogues enjoyed annual circulation of 30 million copies.

Four generations of Ektora have extended the company, founded by Timothy in 1888, across the country and through distributor offices in every hamlet. They turned the states' sales pitch—"Goods satisfactory or money refunded!"—into a phrase as familiar as the first line of the national anthem.

Although the family's ideal of staging elaborate Santa Claus parades in Canadian towns was complicated by more departing in the 1960s, it's clear which Father Christmas he trusts: "Santa's Santa" was the real deal," recalled Rick Baker of Gender, N.D., who witnessed the parade route. "You can't fool kids about anything as important as this."

'There are always stories about us, that we're being sold or something,' said Fred Eaton. 'Nothing to it.'

John Head and Wendell

I saw Fred Eaton in Toronto on Dec. 30, 1966. It was the Christmas season and he was following family tradition by walking around the stores, wishing employees a happy holiday. When I asked him about the retrenching campaign that was devastating his industry, he shrugged. "Our company was accused of being the Wal-Mart of hardware when Timothy was running it, because it was so different from anything that had come before. There is more for all kinds of customers, the more traditional, less-hedonistic retailers like the hardware stores, the more specialized, more specialized boutiques."

As I was leaving, I mentioned the rumors swirling around the company for the past decade. Was Eaton in big trouble? "No, no," he shot back. "Why would you think that? There are always stories about us, that we're being sold or something. Nothing to it." Two months later Eaton's was seeking court protection, the first step towards either bankruptcy or sale to an American media tycoon.

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Coming to a sky near you

Hale-Bopp puts on a show

Thomson Bogg is a big, broad-shouldered man with a close-cropped, a quiet dimension, and a look on his face that suggests he could tell you that experience over quickly. The 47-year-old amateur astronomer from Thornhill, Ontario, is speaking to about 150 people at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto about the night of July 1, 1995, when he peered through a friend's 45-cm home-built telescope and spotted a hazy, blurry object unlike the surrounding stars. It turned out to be a comet—one that could produce a spectacular celestial show over the next few weeks. "I never seriously thought I would find anything like that," Bogg, an unemployed retail manager says during an interview. "The chances of discovering a bright comet, something that occurs once every 20 years or so, were astronomically small."

Concert Hall Bopp as it is known—gives signal instrument Also Hale observed it on the same July night from his backyard in Concord, N.H.—has been visible to the naked eye twice early in February since the eastern sky just before sunrise. If it lives up to its potential, this chunk of galactic ice and dust, which is thought to be about 40 km across, could attain a shimmering brilliant-ee

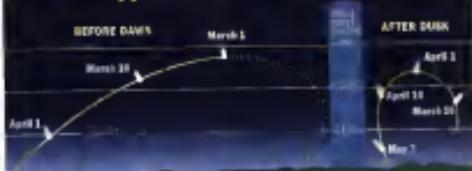


Библия от 3 Библии
Самые популярные версии

main visible all night for several months. "I see little reason to change the position I took at the beginning of August, 1898 that the comet will perform superbly," says Bruce Marsden, director of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams in Cambridge, Mass., the agency that records and names all discoveries. "I honestly don't see how it can fail us."

In this pass, Hale-Bopp will reach its closest point to Earth—190 million km—on March 23. By comparison, Hyakutake, a comet that was visible to the naked eye for most of a week in late January, 1996, came this close, 100 million kilometers. But because

Hale-Bopp in the southern Canadian Sky



Its performance so far has certainly been impressive. Calculations show that it was in a neighborhood of Jupiter, more than 600 million km from Earth, when Hale and Bopp first appeared. Since then, Hale-Bopp has passed the innermost planetary boundary as it has sped hundreds of millions of kilometers through space towards the centre of the Solar System. "That one is quite beautiful and is the potential to be quite bright," says the amateurish writer and amateur astronomer David Levy, an ex-Montrealer who discovered a comet that shattered into pieces in July, 1994. "It's very active under the telescope. It's spouting jets of dust and ice and like a volcano."

This comet, like all others that orbit the sun, was ejected long ago from some point in the remote past from a ring of debris that orbits far from the Sun—thus surrounds the Solar System. Since then, it has been following a long, wavy path that takes it out beyond Pluto and then back toward the sun. The comet last passed by the Earth 4,200 years ago, says Marsden, about the time that ancient Chinese emperors began hiring court astronomers to record unusual celestial events such as eclipses and the appearance of comets. Although there is no written record in their records to suggest that they saw Hale-Bopp, they had as scientific explanation for the celestial visitors, interpreting them instead as signs of impending imperial rule.

On this pass, Hale-Bopp will reach its closest point to Earth—190 million km—on March 23. By comparison, Hyakutake, a comet that was visible to the naked eye for almost a week in late January, 1996, came within nine million km metres. But because

of an enormous sun and a volatile make-up. Hale-Bopp could put on a much more impressive show. Observers say the comet it already has a spectacular tail—a streaming stream of dust and ice particles possibly as much as 30 million km long. Best from the sun's angles to be continually unashamedly material from its core. "As the nucleus rotates and certain active areas are exposed to sunlight, they start erupting," says Levy. "They produce magnificent jets. It doesn't take much to get the sun going, just a little bit of sunlight."

According to Marsden, about a dozen comets are discovered every year, most of them too far away or too faint to be of interest to the public. Amateurs are responsible for a third to half of those discoveries. Some, like Levy, who has found one since the early 1980s, spend dozens of nights each year systematically searching the night sky for comets. But for others, like Bopp, finding a comet is pure serendipity. He and a friend were taking turns on a telescope examining star clusters within the constellation Sagittarius when a star about 150 km south of Phoenix, when the comet drifted into his field of vision. "I had never looked in that area of the sky before," he recalled. "I was strafing from cluster to cluster, observing them for their beauty, when a little funny glow appeared. I thought I'd found a galaxy or something."

But when they saw the object moving against the background stars, they quickly concluded it was a comet. Bepo chose home in a hurry and sent a telegram to Maenden's agency, reporting the find: "10 55 22 the next minute, my wife wife me and son send word you are on the phone from the Harvard-Smithsonian something or other," he recalled. "It was the Center for Astrophysics calling to confirm the report. When I hung up I did a count dance around the kitchen table." Now, like everyone else here, Bepo can only wait and watch and hope that

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Thalidomide is back

A horror drug from the '60s may find new uses

For the past two years, since he learned that scientists were looking for new ways to use Thalidomide, Randy Warren has feared that the drug that left him malformed at birth could soon be available in pharmacists' arsenals. North America, this nightmare just came one step closer to reality—the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is considering an application from New Jersey-based pharmaceutical maker Celgene Corp. to make Thalidomide readily available to treat a form of leprosy. A decision is expected later this year, and if the answer is yes, there will almost certainly be requests to use the drug more freely in the United States and Canada to treat a variety of other illnesses, including severe AIDS symptoms and rheumatoid arthritis. "If it's going to stop people from getting it, we do not want to drop the enforcement," says Warren, 35, of London, Ontario, executive of vice of the Thalidomide Victims Association of Canada. "But I am very scared." Adds Warren, who was born with deformed legs, no thumbs and other problems, and underwent surgery 24 hours by the age of 16, "People do not realize how dangerous this drug is."

Thalidomide. The very name sends shudders up the spines of the physicians who recall the horror it caused in Europe and North America in the late 1950s and early '60s. Some 12,000 babies were born with deformed or missing limbs and other severe defects after their mothers took the drug as a sedative during pregnancy. Withdrawn from the market after four years, Thalidomide is undergoing a cautious rehabilitation more than three decades later. In Canada, about 280 patients a year receive the drug.

"WONDER DRUG"

1958 Thalidomide goes on sale in West Germany, France and elsewhere in Europe, billed as a "wonder drug" that provides a "safe, sound sleep."

1959 A dozen infants born in West Germany with various deformities (limbs missing or misaligned, spinal cord defects, cleft lip or palate, eye and ear defects, severe defects of heart, lungs, kidneys and digestive system).

1961 Thalidomide is banned in Canada.

1962 Thalidomide withdrawn from sale in Germany and Britain.

March 1963 Thalidomide withdrawn from sale in U.S.

1991 Ottawa awards compensation grants of up to \$52,000 to 109 Canadian-born Thalidomide victims.



of easing controls has shaken Canada's 125 "thalidomine," as the victims call themselves, leaving them struggling to resolve their longing of what the drug did with the knowledge that it could help others.

Developed as a sleeping pill in West Germany in 1955, Thalidomide was soon available in large parts of Europe and North America without prescription. As malformed babies started to appear by the hundreds, then thousands, regulators traced the problem to Thalidomide and banned its sale. But behind the scenes physicians continued using the controversial drug in specialized uses, and it soon became the drug of choice for treating an inflammatory condition in leprosy that causes excruciating pain, eye and nerve damage, and eventual blindness. For those patients, "Thalidomide is like a miracle drug," says Dr. Jay Keayton, a tropical medicine specialist at the Toronto Hospital who has prescribed it for about 50 sufferers—mainly immigrants from the tropics—over the past 12 years.

Scientists have also identified two properties of Thalidomide that could benefit patients with a spectrum of serious diseases. It stops new blood vessels from forming—an effect researchers hope could be used to shrink cancerous tumors. And it can slow the body's production of a protein that fights infections and tumors, but, in elevated levels, can also cause fever, weight loss and inflammation. That makes it an effective tool in treating mouth and throat ulcers in AIDS patients and a potentially deadly immune system reaction in bone marrow transplanted patients. Alas, clinical reports also show positive results for treating another more elusive such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Crohn's disease and multiple sclerosis.

In the end, regulators have to weigh the importance of preventing another thalidomide birth against the need to treat illnesses now, says Laura Shulman, assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Toronto's Joint Centre for Bioethics. "It would be a mistake to be overprotective," she says. "But we also have to consider how we will react in a thalidomide baby 10 years from now how we allowed this to happen to him."

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Spare the rod, spoil the child?

The paddle and the strap were once as common in Canadian classrooms as chalk and blackboards. But now Saskatchewan is poised to become the seventh province—following British Columbia, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces—to ban corporal punishment in school. Roughly half of Saskatchewan's 118 school boards already prohibit the use of force on students, but some educators insist it remains an effective way to keep order. "We use it when necessary," says Lee Bruneau, principal of the private Christian Centre Academy in Saskatoon. "The child is given three wands at the turn with a witness present." One vocal critic of corporal punishment is Liberal Senator Sharon Carstairs. Last month, she privately bill to repeal a section of the Criminal Code stating that "every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil." She gave second reading in the Senate. Carstairs acknowledges her bill has little hope of becoming law, in part because many teachers feel it is sometimes necessary to intervene physically in disputes between students. Still, Carstairs remains adamant. "Corporal punishment," says Carstairs, "normalizes violence as a way of dealing with problems."

The politics of pedagogy

It was, said its proponents, nothing more than "a game to raise people's consciousness about language." But not everyone agreed with that assessment when the Conseil Pedagogique interdisciplinaire du Québec (Quebec interdisciplinary teaching council), a voluntary organization of 25,000 teachers and education professionals, sent an activity guide that included a quiz about "organic pride" to 3,500 elementary and high schools as part of "French in education week." The quiz gives a higher score to students who favor French over English, determined by the answers they give to 25 true-false statements. Among them: "Let others anglicize my first name or do it to others," and "I have an English message on my answering machine." Yet while council spokesman Jack Liguori says several people who read the quiz "didn't find it judgmental," his organization has now advised school boards not to distribute it if they find it offensive. Among those who saw policies getting in the way of pedagogy was Bertrand D'Acosta, director general of Montreal's South Shore School Board. "You get the message that as a francophone, if you're French it's not up to you, then it's the fault of the English word," says D'Acosta. "We you don't think kids have to be exposed to that."

A university puts writing to the test

Intense classic case of peer pressure seems likely. Roughly three-quarters of students, who took part in a recent survey of writing skills at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, said they believe they wrote well. But in fact, the survey found that up to 80 per cent of those in some departments were writing at an unacceptable level. The report, to be formally presented to the university's Senate, concluded that the students' self-assessments were "grossly inflated."

posed to education by the North American Free Trade Agreement. In the coming month, says project chairman Jacques Thériault Scott, who is also president of the University College of Cape Breton in Sydney, N.S., the committee hopes to convene the first national hearings to address some of those issues. "It's a time of great change in our industry," says Scott. "We look at this as a unique opportunity to let the government know what's important to us."



Groundwork for a national strategy

Canada is the only advanced industrialized country without a federal ministry of education—a fact that has made it difficult to co-ordinate national teaching and training efforts. To address this problem, representatives from public schools, colleges, universities, industry and labour groups recently revised the report of the Education/Training Pioneering Action Project, which enumerates several possible national educational alternatives. Among them, the creation of an electronic forum allowing educators to access recent scholarship on effective teaching, a national public and



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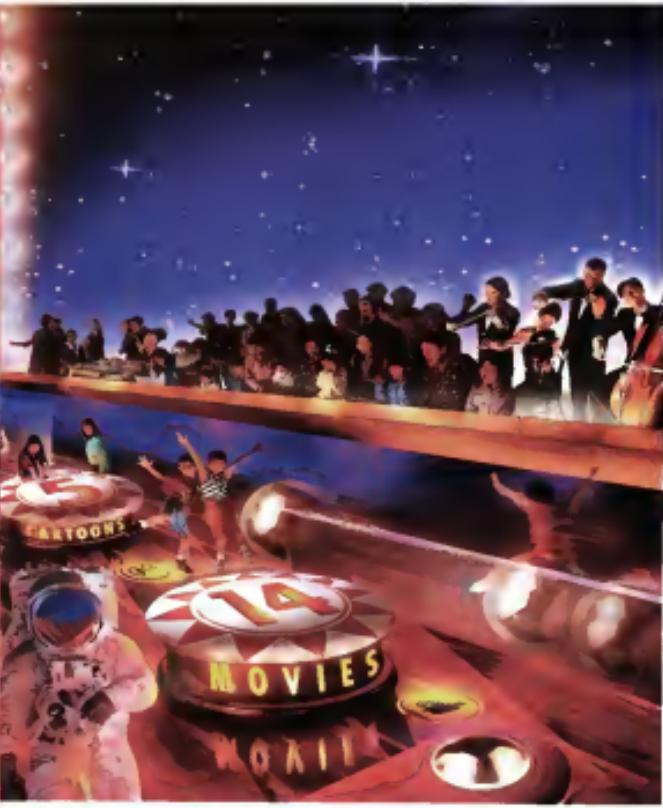
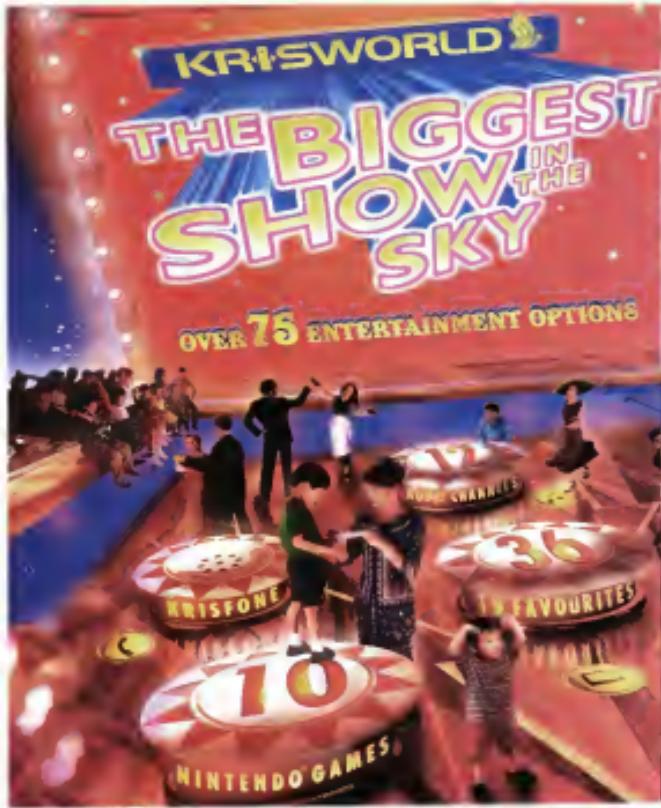
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People

Edited by
BARBARA WICKENS



Dion *en* close encounters with special effects

A show business legacy

Having Tonny Chong the Vancouver-based half of the 1980s cult comedy duo Cheech and Chong as a father is "very cool," says daughter Robbs Chong. Still, she originally avoided a career in entertainment just because others assumed that "it would be easy for me to get into this family business." That changed in 1996, when Chong, a Paris model for the previous five years, was plucked from the runway and cast in the French movie *Police Story 3D* after studying acting in Los Angeles for two years. She switched to performing full time, appearing frequently in theatre and on television, including guest spots on *The Early Show* and *MasterChef*. These days, the 33-year-old Canadian actress is a star of the syndicated supernatural drama series *Psych*, in which she portrays Alex Hause, a brilliant researcher with psychic abilities. Filming the series in the Vancouver area marks a return to her birthplace. But Chong jokes that, so far, the best part of working on *Psych* has been keeping clean. "I haven't had to film any gross close encounters with disgusting special effects."

Bobsled duo running on high

By winning the last two men's bobsleigh events of the season in Nagano, Japan, on Feb. 22, Pierre Leenders of Edmonton and Dave MacEachern of Charlottetown captured the *Gold Cup*'s overall season championship. That is itself a stunning achievement, because of an injury to MacEachern, who competed in only five of the circuit's seven races. But the Nagano triumph has far greater ramifications for the pair. Their victory—by an astounding half second in a sport that measures times by hundredths—estab-

Dion top pop star

For the second year in a row, a Canadian singer has walked away with album of the year honors at the Grammys. America's pretense music awards last week in New York City, Quebec chanteuse Céline Dion not only took top album for her 23-million-selling *Falling Into You*, she also won for best pop album. Last year's big Grammy winner, Ottawa rocker Alanis Morissette—currently on vacation in India—lost in the only category for which she was nominated, video short form. In fact, of the nine Canadians who scored an impressive 17 nominations for the 38th annual Grammy Awards, only one other took home a gong—a statuette—and one of producer David Foster's two awards was for work on Dion's album.



Dion *en* close encounters with special effects

Foster, a native of Victoria, also won for best instrumental arrangement with no accompanying vocals. "I realize every day that talent is not enough," Dion told the audience of 12,000 at Madison Square Garden, "and I want to thank everyone who works in the shadows."

How his garden grows

Fans of Canadian architect Arthur Erickson will be able to tour his personal garden in Vancouver this summer. Erickson, who will charge an admission fee, announced the move as a way of raising money to pay back the influential and affluent admirers who helped save his heritage home and garden from the bulldozer in February. After Erickson ran into financial difficulties in 1992, people including Peter Wall in Vancouver, developer, and Phyllis Lambert, founder of the Montreal-based Canadian Centre of Architecture, formed a foundation. It paid more than \$825,000 in outstanding debts so that Erickson could hold onto the 1917 home he purchased and started renovating in 1957. "The garden is lovely," he says. "I don't mind sharing its beauty."



Erickson *heritage home saved*

lished them as the team to beat at next year's Winter Olympics in Nagano. Leenders, the driver, and MacEachern, the brakeman, attribute their success to a long-term partnership. "There has confidence in me that the fast starts will be there on every run," MacEachern says. "I did cause on her to fail the fastest way to the bottom." The nail-biting race was held exactly one year before the scheduled date of the closing ceremonies of the 1998 Winter Olympics, and on the very track where the competition will be staged. If Leenders and MacEachern can keep their winning formula going for another year, there will be gold at the bottom of the hill.



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THE DOLLY DEBATE

BY BRUCE WALLACE

She doesn't look like a normal lamb or a monster or an animal of evil. Her eyes and ears have a jaunty hue—just like they are supposed to. She is seven months old and coats it with flattish tufts of woolen curly, a natural sweater against Scottish air so cold on this winter morning that her breath rises in puffs every time she bleats. Her white eyelashes blink sleepily despite the miasma around her, the incessant popping of strobe lights and whirring of cameras as photographers close to her, whining to get her attention and calling out, "Dolly, Dolly, over here, Dolly," as if she were someone's pet dog instead of a sheep. "What's the book here?" Dolly might well ask, having wondered, going back at the pack of one-eyed humans.

"As you can see, she is a normal sheep," says Dr. Ian Wilmut, a middle-aged, bald scientist with a bemused smile, a few freckles away. "She looks like a sheep, behaves like a sheep."

But that does not name Dolly as just any old Fliss Dossier, down on the farm. She was created by what Wilmut's research partners at the Roslin Institute just south of Edinburgh were calling, with some understatement, "an unusual method." For Wilmut is also a human person and his business is in biotechnology, an industry where the mission is build a better mouse and the world will beat a path to your door. Jumping by the worldwide apparel in Dolly's coming-out last week, he and his Roslin partners have done it.

In the scientific language of the *Times* paper, *Radio 4*'s researchers published in the British science journal *Nature*, Dolly "was born after nuclear transfer from a mammary gland cell, the first mammal to develop from a cell derived from adult tissue." In everyday language, they did something that most people con-

sidered to be purely in the realm of pulp science fiction. Taking cell containing 98 per cent of the DNA, or its genetic blueprint, from the udder of a year-old adult sheep, they forced it to fertilize an egg of another sheep to produce a lamb that is virtually an embryo—an identical twin, six years younger—of the original embryo. (Two per cent of DNA is transmitted only through a mother's egg.) The birth, Dolly has the same hereditary characteristics as her genetic mother. And if they can do it with a cell from an adult animal, the researchers acknowledge it is "possible" that the same technique could be used to copy humans. "What Dolly shows, in principle, is that we can start again," says Ian Wilmut, the embryologist who headed the Roslin team.

Whether the discovery was of atom-splitting significance for sci-

ence or just another step along the biogenetic road was debatable.

But there was a considerate popular reaction to breaking the barrier between the realms of science and fantasy. While many scientists welcomed any new understanding of biology's mysteries, religious leaders and many citizens shuddered at this latest method by which scientists can now tamper with the fundamentals of life (page 56). The Vatican condemned it. The German media, hearing only echoes of Nazi eugenics experiments, brooded about it. And the British government, with an eye on the storm, announced an end to Roslin's funding.

Many people shared the unease of British Nobel Peace Prize winner Joseph Rotblat, who called for international ethical safeguards against abuses of biotechnology. Genetic engineering, said Rotblat,

was a forest to be harvested. One set of trees clearly in danger the Roslin researchers themselves, who were openly nervous that their discovery would prompt animal rights activists to seek revenge for their experiments with sheep. The scientists would not divulge where they lived, and camera crews were told not to take pictures of the staff. Animal rights activists vowed to take revenge anyway.

While Dolly allowed late-night-sleeping writers to breathe easier for a week, she also spurred off-wide-spread speculation about how the technique might be used—and abused. The institute was quickly swarmed with appeals from that wacky and the sad, people from around the world desperately longing for the researchers to regenerate dead husbands and children. Talk shown touched on ordinary scenarios: Was it now possible for people with terminal diseases to produce a twin they could tap for "spare parts"? Could it mean cloning the capacities to continue creating for eternity, or supernumerary appendages with an endless supply of body parts? And would megapolitan dictators be tempted to populate the world with cloned versions of their own self?

The reality, of course, is that even

if human cloning took the enormous leap from the theoretical to the practical, personalities are shaped by an array of factors beyond genetics. But the vision of multiple Wilmuts bounded over. Colman's wife, who asked her husband at home one night whether some in-pot dictator would be in the world would use "unscrupulous means to clone himself?" Colman said he would be exceedingly difficult but technically possible. "I'm not absolutely sure that I'm suited for it," he said dryly last week. His 14-year-old son also questioned what his dad was calling on the world. "I know that," said Colman, grinning slightly as he reluctantly divulged his own family's misgivings. "What we are going to have a problem with the general public."

The two burdens of scientific hero and ethical villain rest mainly on the shoulders of Wilmut. A balding, 52-year-old who likes walking, cycling and digging single-leaf couch-husks for his garden, he is an unlikely candidate for international ethical safeguarding against abuses of biotechnology. Genetic engineering, said Rotblat,



quent need to beat the bushes for more research funds. He says he "never came close to giving up." When asked what kept him plugging away for so long on a theory that most biologists ridiculed as preposterous, he allows only a self-deprecating smile and says, "I guess I lacked imagination to go away and do something else."

Wiltz was born near Warwick, England, the son of a math teacher, "a very clever man." But he describes himself as an average student, who went to university to study farming supply because he wanted to work outdoors. Discovering that he had "no commercial interests whatsoever," he fell instead under the spell of researcher Clive Page at Cambridge. Page had discovered how to freeze cells in 1959, and Wiltz went on to do a doctorate in freezing pig semen. "He taught me a lot about cells," recalls Wiltz. In 1972, Wiltz produced his first cell from a frozen embryo.

Wiltz answers a call, "No" when asked if he is religious. To him, embryos are "still a bunch of undifferentiated cells, about one-twenty-fifth of an inch in size." Like others in the field of biotechnology, he has made his personal peace with the ethics of manipulating the early stages of life, as well as with the need to induce genetic defects—such as those in the mouse offspring that he has had to get used to since a year ago, when his team used a revolutionary technique to produce two sheep from embryo cells. People attacked him in public and asked how he could sleep at night. They called him Dr. Frankenstein.

"It doesn't hurt my feelings. I have no sleepless nights," he says slowly when asked about those accusations. "I fully understand that there are people who find this all deeply off-

ensive." Wiltz does complain, however, about the "hundreds of people in Britain who make a living by generating anxiety." He blames misguided scientists and animal rights activists for the alarmist reaction last week to Dolly's conception. "This isn't making a human," he says firmly. "There will say practical use for this technology with humans. If people would realize that, then we could take the emotion out of the debate."

So Wiltz says he had no sleepless night moment when Dolly was born, or anything euphoric like the one that struck J. Robert Oppenheimer on watching the atomic weapon he designed explode over the New Mexican desert in 1945. "It worked," was all Oppenheimer said after the first atomic flash, but he later recalled a line from Hindu scripture to describe his emotion: "Now I have become Death, the destroyer of worlds." "Nothing like that," says Wiltz, almost chagrined at any suggestion that his innovation might have gone beyond a biologist's simple excitement at seeing something happen for the first time. "I think we all went out for dinner. This is not buying into any Oedipus complex." "Nuclear weapons are much more dangerous than this," he says.

But Wiltz has taken his critics head on. He sits in a Church of Scotland committee that meets monthly to examine ethical issues raised by advances in science and technology. "We have our disagreements," says Michael Appleby, a university lecturer in animal welfare who is also a member. "I am religious and I am an avowed nonbeliever. But he wanted to address the ethical issues, and ethics at night. They called him Dr. Frankenstein.

"It doesn't hurt my feelings. I have no sleepless nights," he says slowly when asked about those accusations. "I fully understand that there are people who find this all deeply off-

BODY DOUBLES

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Now that science has figured out how to clone sheep, fears are mounting rampant that a clone new breed of human replicants is just around the corner. Big deal. Hollywood, where they have been breeding people like sheep for ages, has already perfected the cloning business. Take, for example, the movie about the mad scientist who fabricates his offspring in the laboratory. Which movie? Take your pick. Ever since the early *Frankenstein* flicks, the gencreep itself has been cloned over and over and again.

The classic example of a gene-cloning movie is the 1978 thriller *The Boys from Brazil*, in which Gregory Peck is half-crazed intent on Dr. Josef Mengele, Nazi psychopath who mentors a brood of cloned teenage boys with blue eyes and shocks of straight black hair from samples of skin and blood donated by Adolf Hitler before he died. Mengele's goal is to resurrect the Third Reich with a Hitler clone. Laurence Olivier plays Lederhosen, the Nazi bather who tracks down the bad doctor. In its senseless goal of the pleasure pure pleasure, he becomes to a scientist—a one-eyed—explain how he has cloned babies by injecting donor cells into eggs stripped of their genetic material. "And this can be done with humans?" asks the incredulous Lederhosen. "It's monstrous!" The scientist gives him a blank look. "Why?" he asks. "Wouldn't you want to live in a world of Moneys and Passes? Of course it's only a dream. Not only would it have to reproduce the genetic code of the donor, but the environmental background as well?"

Good thinking. Not every cloning movie is so foolish—certainly not Woody Allen's *Staller* (1973), in which a doctor's dis-



■ *Boys from Brazil* in *Multiplicity*, cloning scientists are suddenly in demand

hodded now held the blueprint for cloning a new world order. But most movies do portray ovum engineering as an evil business, leading to the propagation of a human species that could consume the planet. In the *Frankenstein* tradition, however, the scientist can have benign intentions. The Naïf scientist played by Peter O'Toole in *On Golden Pond* (1981) was just trying to make a little old man's life a little better. And the diabolical cloning-eggheads in *Jurassic Park*—which will be cloned in a blockbuster sequel this summer—just wanted to build a zoo.

There is, of course, an entire genre of sci-fi movies populated



■ Wiltz: "I only understand there are people who find this offensive"

by no means the sole prerogative of the church. "Wiltz says he and the others on the committee have had some convergence of opinion on the issue. If Bruce and I, who chair the committee, wrote an article that Donald Bruce, who chairs the committee, wrote last week, attacking Wiltz's cloning research "To produce replicant animals as demand would be to go against something basic and God given about the nature of life," wrote Bruce and I, "history suggests we could never rest assured that an human being would dream of exploring genetics or embryology to evil ends."

Wiltz was also attacked in this month's *Art* magazine by Glasgow's Centre for Contemporary Art as part of a panel during an exhibition on science and animals. "It's hard to find people who will publicly defend animal experimentation because there's such anathema on there," said Francis McKee, the show's curator. "This is not the front lines of genetics, and I was worried for him when he agreed to appear." McKee, who is also a medical business, says he might say he agrees with cloning. "But I know you can't stop that kind of curiosity or drive in a scientist."

Wiltz's colleagues say he shares that pursuit of knowledge. But as the front man for Roslin's cloning project, he carries a stick on the research by stressing its possible medical benefits to humans. At every opportunity last week, he turned the discussion of his discovery back to its potential for producing benefits of so-called transgenic animals—especially animals that are living drug factories because their milk produces the therapeutic proteins that make up some medicines. Making transgenic drugs is already a multimillion-dollar industry, but the current method of producing transgenic animals is an inefficient, hit-and-miss process. Wiltz's procedure should guarantee that every animal in the herd is transgenic, secreting enough animal-based milk in a speed of cloned trials of new drugs and getting them to market faster.

Over and over, Wiltz and Colman emphasized the therapeutic possibilities of their cloning technique. Allergic properties could be removed from cow's milk to make it digestible to more people, they said. The option

by cybernetic cloning—cloning from the replicants in *Blade Runner* to the Arnold Schwarzenegger gladiator in *Terminator 2*. They are, basically, disposable people. Their flesh can be graphically剖, grafted, squashed, punctured, cut and ripped, and for some reason the violence is supposed to seem all the more because it is just machine flesh. Also, inseparable, are old heads of cloning people into houses. Movies ranging from *Imitation of Life* (1934) to *Body Snatchers* (1956) to *Splicer* (2009) have taught us that soulless mutants may be lurking under the skin of even the most recognizable folks.

Finally, there is the clone-as-household-dwarf. In last year's *Multiplicity*, Michael Keaton played an overworked construction worker who replicates himself with the help of a local geneticist. The first clone is a macho overachiever, the second an effeminate New Man, and the third (a clone of a clone) a blithering idiot. The film failed poorly at the box office, putting a damper on future projects in the same vein. But Dolly's fame has changed all that—at the studios, cloning scripts are suddenly in demand.

But then cloning is what Hollywood is all about—call it the dash-and-burn of mass culture. The movie industry thrives on duplicating the same formulas again and again, turning out sequels, remakes and knock-offs from an shrinking gene pool of bland stinkers—just like a strain.



■ *Mulholland's* *Marilyn*, replicating

creativity. It also does its stars, replicating a single personality into common currency. Andy Warhol, painterly icon of freak, figured it out in 1968 with his serial silk screen of such icons as Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and the Moon Landing. Distilling both the thing and the deal, Warhol cloned the very tissue of culture, putting up like sheets of concert ticket money. He was both a cult and a commodity, and anyone passed the point, be it art or off-the-rack service, images of dollar bills.

In a global culture where a face can become an instant icon—witness the proliferation of면면체—embellished with the Edward Munch painting *The Scream*—cloning is a metaphor that has come full circle. In the typical horror fantasy, what drives the laboratory scientist to play god is a lust for immortality in their own way; artists have always hoped to leave a mark that lasts beyond their death. But Hollywood has industrialized that desire. And if special effects wizards have their way, the stars of the future could actually be clones—the digital kind. Director Robert Zemeckis, who brought John F. Kennedy back to life in *Forrest Gump*, has predicted that actors may soon be able to extend their careers indefinitely by banking computer clones of themselves in their genes. They could co-star with their younger selves in fleshbodies, and be cast in movies long after their death.

But some stars might prefer to replicate themselves to the flesh. Madonna, for instance, could solo-split with while many business of finding a mate. She could conceive her own unclonable bundle of bland stinkers—just like a strain.

could be genetically modified for transplanting into humans without the risk of passing viruses across the species barrier. And the technique would allow certain genes to be more easily added and modified. For example, they proposed that genes that might make cells susceptible to the so-called mad-cow disease that has decimated British herds could be altered or removed. "When we start to put what we've done into life and death situations, then it suddenly becomes more acceptable," insists Walens. "And as it becomes more acceptable, people will lose their fears." Then he took another question from a reporter, one about what would prevent some biological difference from secretly having a natural clause in it.

The breakthrough that allowed Reznik to stonewall the world was no new high-tech genius, but an idea. Several researchers around the world were trying to do the same thing: free DNA from donor cells to enter the dead cells by passing an electric current through them. But the process they used tended to damage the DNA. Reznik researchers overcame that problem by doing the fusing when the donor cell was in a dormant state, somewhat like an animal in hibernation. The stage is called G-tissue or "quiescence," and the Reznik team calls it the key to their success.

Keith Campbell is the researcher who had the moment of epiphany two years ago to use G-tissue. "I don't think in a straight line. There are all sorts of things flying around up here," explains the enigmatic Gyrasoid-free biologist, pointing to his curly-haired head. Unlike Walens, whose PB responsibilities are given him to restrain his enthusiasm in front of the world's cameras, Campbell was openly enthusiastic about the project in an interview. "I am just fascinated by the biology of it all," he said as he drew a sorry doodle of a sheep on the corner of a newspaper to illustrate how Dolly was produced.

Campbell has had several dinners at scientific gatherings, from running tests in a medical lab to studying Dutch elm disease. But his discipline is in frog biology, and in that field were demonstrating that they could clone salamanders as far back as the early 1970s. "I thought my background could help this research," he says about the decision that took him to Blaikie five years ago. "If we could do it in frogs, I think we could do it in mammals." He doesn't see why we couldn't do it in mammals. Dolly isn't the answer, he continues. "There are a lot of differences between frogs and humans. It's significantly easier to do in frogs."

"That was a frog biologist. I think nothing is impossible," just slightly improbable," he explains. "Now, we've proved a point that's been debated for a long time. But I have no design believed." He pauses for a second, for the dimensions of it all sink in on his visitor. "Because we could do it in frogs," he mutters.

ANOTHER EWE

To create Dolly, the Reznik Institute researchers:

- 1 Extracted mammary
budding cells from an
adult ewe.
- 2 Removed the nucleus
containing the genetic
material from another
sheep's unfertilized egg.
- 3 Fused a mammary cell,
with its own DNA, to that egg
with electricity to make it
start to grow into an embryo.
- 4 Transplanted the growing
embryo into the uterus of
another ewe that served as
surrogate mother.

Now in July, Dolly contains
the same genetic information
as the ewe that provided the
surrogate cells.

But the move from frog to no-cloning to humans is a generation's progression of men in lab coats musing with life-forms. "Science-fiction writers avoided the subject of cloning—they wanted realism," says Robert Sturz, director of the University of Edinburgh Science Fiction Society. "Cloning was only for science fiction." It was used as an example of bad science, of science gone wrong. Bill Bell, a University of Edinburgh English professor who specializes in science fiction, agrees that cloning in one of those subjects that has delicate science for the legend. "There is a deeply ingrained popular suspicion that the roots of science are in the occult," he says. "There is always this fear that science is asking questions it shouldn't, that it is seeking forbidden knowledge. That's why there is such a negative reaction to cloning."

And it rumbles still in more than polite literary debate. In Europe, protesters have periodically demonstrated over the past year to try to block shipments of genetically modified foods, such as corn and soybeans. Animal rights demonstrators in Britain have campaigned against genetic engineering for years. In 1993, activists used to burn the British flag in down, and succeeded in raising another British flag in the neighboring town of Bush. "The spotlight will be falling on Britain pretty brightly now," warns Robin Webb, spokesperson for Britain's Animal Liberation Front, which uses "etho-technology" to battle researchers who experiment on animals. The group considers the property of any employer in Britain, or of any company that services the industry, to be fair game.

And it is not even the most radical group. Others call themselves the Animal Rights Militia and the Justice Department has sent FBI agents to their targets. So Reznik's security is tight. There is a lot of electronic surveillance, and two German shepherds, Bauer and Prince, conduct night patrols. Staff members say the dogs know where their legacies lie.

The dogs at Walter Reznik's firm a few kilometers down the road from the institute also know their job. The three border collies follow the men and then jumping up on Blaikie's chair to the surrounding rooms. Walens has heard about Dolly on television, and he guesses when he'd seen her must've thought the genes to produce a better sheep. He offers some hints about the food for newborn lambs to be softer: to keep them from dying of exposure during the cold April lambing season. But as the callous to prove his point, he has a better idea: "They could give the sheep better brains," make 'em "smarter." It makes him laugh. "Then we wouldn't need the dogs."

Get your opinion on cloning in the This Week section of the Maclean's Forum (www.macleans.ca/macframe).

THE PROSPECT OF EVIL

In Harold Shapiro, U.S. President Bill Clinton may have found the perfect candidate to explore the questions surrounding animal—and potentially human—cloning. To be sure, as president of Princeton University in New Jersey, the 70-year-old Manhattan-born economist is a respected academic. But Shapiro brings another thing, refused to his acceptance as chairman of the Federal Bioethics Advisory Commission, charged last week with preparing a report for Clinton on the legal and ethical implications of the new cloning techniques. He and his brother, Michael, also a university administrator—st McCall at Montreal—are twins. "So I guess you could say that I was specially made for this job," says Harold with a chuckle.

Unlike many of his academic colleagues, Shapiro is not only unconcerned about the ramifications likely to flow from the creation of that sheep-called Dolly ("I have to admit it's a startling event that poses a host of questions"), he acknowledges. "But at the same time, I have every confidence that we'll be able to do something to keep it under control." No one scientist has learned to feed safely with "mischief" technology, he argues, citing nuclear weapons and poison-gas examples. "The changes are," says Shapiro, "far more subtle than a grain of sand." He is going to end up producing a lot more benefits than costs.

That is certainly the view of pharmaceutical firms involved in the effort to transform barnyards of sheep-like animal agents into what amounts to four-legged drug factories. They set Dolly as merely another step along the road towards having genetically altered sheep, cows, and pigs produce not only more and better cells and meat but also human proteins for use in the fight against cancer, cystic fibrosis, and other diseases. They also talk of cloning for the wholesale production of spare body parts—reproductive hearts and livers, lungs, and kidneys.

But the shock of seeing such a radical technology come so close to human application raises troubling questions about its possible uses. It is frightening how easily people can be subverted to evil purposes, says Dr. Gerald Klassen, a bioethicist and a professor of medicine at Dalhousie University in Halifax. "We have the idea that doctors are particularly ethical and that they will always make the right choices," says Klassen. "But given you look at the extraordinarily high participation rate of the medical profession in the Nazi medical experiments of Nazi Germany."

While many European countries have regulations outlawing experimentation with human cloning, there are as such laws yet in Canada or the United States. Last June, the Liberal government in Ontario introduced legislation that would prohibit human cloning, along with some other reproductive techniques. Based on the recommendations of the 2000 report of the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, the bill goes before the House of Commons sometime this month, but is unlikely to become law before an election is called. "It's hard to say ethically defensible use of cloning for human beings," says University of British Columbia professor Pamela Bland, who wrote the commission report. She draws an important distinction between cloning and earlier, more acceptable technologies like test-tube reproduction and in vitro fertilization. "A baby born in vitro would have an egg and a sperm from



Nazi rally in Berlin in 1936: doctors participated in eugenics experiments

her mother and father," she notes. "With cloning, you simply copy one of the cells of an adult person."

Margaret Somerville of McGill's Centre for Medicine, Ethics and the Law cautions cloning as the third outrage of modern medical science, after heart transplant surgery and test-tube reproduction. But she, too, sees it justified for humans. Somerville attributes revulsion to the very notion of cloning to "a moral intuition, an innate gut reaction that we've got to listen to when we sit down and do our cool logic." What she sees developing is an argument about the essence of humanity. "It is a radical shift in the whole nature of the unique essence of each human from a genetic point of view," says Somerville.

So radical, in fact, that human cloning laws are "physiologically unpredictable" for the earliest concept of cloning, says psychologist Charles Cope of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. "When we get the possibility of several individuals who are identical, it's hard for us to know how to react, to know whether it's good or bad." But no what it has been coupled with sleep, he expects clones to be happy with humans. "We will see people start up cloning clinics in less regulated, more enterprising underdeveloped countries," says Cope. "It could cause a major change in male-female relationships. We could really disrupt reproduction from sexuality."

That, of course, is a concern from a biological perspective. "Procreation without the sexual act of husband and wife is considered morally wrong," notes Monsignor Adrian Ehrn, Roman Catholic archbishop of Vancouver. He also foresees frightening social implications resulting from disseminating the act of procreation. "For example, what kind of a self-image would a cloned offspring have?" wonders Ehrn. "What psychological problems might that cause? How would a lot of cloned individuals change society?" If only the cloned sheep is a harbinger of what lies ahead, it may be time to reach for answers to these burning questions.

BASILY CAMEE and SHARON DOUGLASS DAWBARGER in Toronto

Reckless Reichmanns

THE REICHMANNS: FAMILY, FAITH, FORTUNE, AND THE EMPIRE OF OLYMPIA & YORK

By Anthony Bianco

(Random House, 668 pages, \$39.95)

In 1992, the international business world was rocked to its foundations by the spectacular collapse of the Toronto-based real-estate giant Olympia & York Developments Ltd. As their company expanded, the Reichmann brothers—Ralph, Albert, and particularly, Paul—had capitalized on their near-mythical reputation for solidarity and savvy. They had amassed a \$30-billion personal fortune, built a vast international empire, and borrowed billions of dollars with little more than a handshake and their word. But as the credits closed in and the complex financial deals unravelled, O & Y's impressive collection of office lawyers was ultimately revealed as a house of cards. And the Reichmann brothers proved to be more human than many people had imagined.

Since O & Y's fall, several books have charted the rise and fall of the Reichmanns. But unlike other authors, U.S. writer Anthony Bianco had unprecedented access to members of the secretive family and their personal archives. He spent four years researching and writing *The Reichmanns*. And even though he occasionally gets carried in anachronistic detail, the end result is a series of rich portraits of, among other things, the Orthodox Jewish community, the Reichmann family, the international real-estate business, and Paul Reichmann—the man who tried to bring those diverse elements together.

Essentially, O & Y was made in the image of Paul Reichmann: his personal strengths, weaknesses and vision were clearly reflected in the company's structure and management style. The dominant influence in Reichmann's personal and business life is his profound Orthodox faith. That explains his rabbinical appearance and his sober, scholarly approach to the glitz and



glamour of the 1980s real-estate market.

Undergirding that power, discipline & personal, however, was a curious recklessness, a strong taste for high-stakes gambling. The \$6-billion investment in Canary Wharf project, for example, was predicated on taking business from the traditional pretends of London's business center to the city's derelict docklands. Bianco describes Paul Reichmann as a capitalist disciplined in the guise of an undertaker: "Like all gamblers who are down on their luck, he kept rolling

the dice just one more time. In the end, his inability to recognize math and fortune led to the destruction of his dream, his credibility—and a lot of other people's capital."

The first 17 chapters of *The Reichmanns* may be churlish to some readers. Bianco thoroughly examines the history of Orthodox Jews in Hungary and the role of the Reichmann dynasty within that community. He also traces their flight to Tangier, Morocco, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. The account is heavy going

at times, but it provides an essential context for the rest of the saga.

Among the most interesting chapters are those devoted to the two oldest Reichmann brothers, Edward and Louis. Little has been written about the family's experiences in the Montreal real-estate market in the 1950s. On a smaller scale, their pattern of aggressive

A biography gives the inside story on Olympia & York's collapse

Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, Paul Reichmann, (bottom)

expansion—and their ultimate failure—laid the seeds for the rise of O & Y. The account of their misadventures also delivers a strange sense of the Reichmann family dynamic, complete with a liberal dose of sibling rivalry and a dominating matriarch.

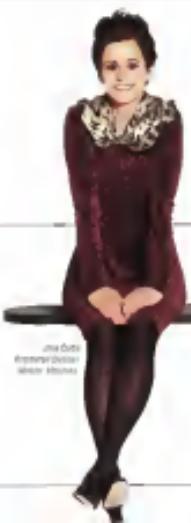
As with Louis and Edward, O & Y began as a partnership among brothers, in this case Albert, Ralph and Paul. But it is clear that Paul was always the dominant one. By the time O & Y was fully formed, the others were relegated to the sidelines. Despite the

fact that family members, including the Reichmann parents, formed the board of directors, Paul Reichmann had little opposition or even debate. He was assisted at the top and faced with the monumental task of almost single-handedly managing an immense global empire of real-estate projects, rental properties and public companies. At the time of O & Y's collapse, the company's assets included First Canadian Place in Toronto, the World Financial Center in Manhattan, Canary Wharf in London, and majority stakes in Abitibi-Price Ltd. and Gulf Controls Resource Inc.

Besides Paul Reichmann's private life revolved around family and the greater Orthodox community, he did not have the benefit of easily discussing business and its problems with a group of peers. More regular contact with outsiders might have tempered his destructive obsession with Canary Wharf.

The Reichmanns offers exceptional insight into two worlds and the man who boldly attempted to bridge them. Bianco ends the book with the Yiddish proverb that all can like fish, but few are prepared to get wet. Paul Reichmann certainly waded in when it came to amassing his fortune. But in the end, it was hundreds of creditors who got soaked.

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Dance of the dunes

A choreographer evokes desert sands and sun

Nine dancers—six women and three men—stand with their backs to the audience, slowly coming to life and the haunting strains of Arabic music. Lit by spotlights in the theatre's wings, they seem to be caught in the rays of a low sun. As the dance progresses, they move as if under the burden of great heat, bodies stretching and contorting with a palpable sensuality. Then, suddenly, from beneath seas, as they draw through complex loops of rejection and conflict. But there is also tenderness as they learn to cope together in new ways, with softer, subtler outbursts of humor and grace, as welcome as cool water under a burning sky.

The Trilogy of Salt/Sand, a new work from Toronto-based Dancemakers, has all the compressed power and strange, unexpected nobility of the best art. It hypothesizes with its faultlessly sustained mood, while serving up countless exquisitely detailed details. Two years ago, Dancemakers, one of the country's leading modern dance troupes, performed a shorter version of the work, called Salt, to great acclaim (it won a Dora Award). Now two new sections have been added to create a masterful trilogy. Two weeks ago, the expanded work received its world premiere in Ottawa before moving on to Toronto. It will tour to Winnipeg (March 13-15), and later in the year, Dancemakers will also perform in Halifax, April 20 to 22, Saint John's, Nfld., April 26, and Thessaloniki, Greece.

Since Benoît, Dancemakers' artistic director and the creator of The Trilogy, is so much in demand these days that finding time to work on his work is a major choreographic enterprise. He has spent much of the past month shuttling between Canada and New York City, where he is currently developing dance and movement for a Metropolitan Opera Company production of Eugene Onegin (just find, in disengaged Alan Egoyan's acclaimed version of Tolstoy for



Benoît Benjamin: "We
were asked to shoot
the marriage of
two cultures."

peasant and North African," he says. "It is about the pain and vulnerability people must experience if two cultures are to embrace. But it is also about the good things that can come if you allow that marriage to happen."

With his French mother and Algerian father, Benjamin knows what it means to be a minority. He had an arranged childhood, growing up with his family every few years to different cities around France. When his father pursued the seafaring life, Benjamin had to find some entrepreneurial activity to keep him off the streets. Benjamin picked dance supply because a friend was studying ballet. By early adolescence he was living a rootless existence, indulging in party with his friends by day and taking dance lessons at night. Then,

at 14, realizing he was at serious danger of becoming a criminal, Benjamin then got his family's permission to live in Paris, where he studied drama and plunged into the city's rich cultural circuit.

Yet dance did not become his ruling passion until two events galvanized him. A teacher stopped his hand as a way of awakening him to the commitment danger required. And he was profoundly moved by a Norwegian performance in Paris. Not long after, at 18, Benjamin joined Roland Petit's National Ballet de Marseille; later he started his own company in Cannes.

Benoît, then 21, left France in 1985 because he wanted to break new ground artistically. "I needed to grow and expand, and sometimes you can't do that at home." He chose Canada because he had visited earlier with his company and liked the sense of possibilities here. At first, he danced with the experimental Le Groupe de la Place Royale in Quebec, where he found exactly the fresh approach he needed. Later he performed and did choreography with such groups as Vancouver's Judith Marcuse Dance Company and Ballet British Columbia. Then, in 1990, he accepted an invitation from Dancemakers to become its artistic director. In subsequent years, he and the company have built an enviable national and international reputation.

As with most of his work, Benjamin—who is now married to company dancer Carolyn Woods—has created Salt out of autochthonous fragments: mostly memories of his father's family and of sand-drenched southern landscapes. And somehow he has turned these impressions into a choreography. Marcella Benjamin: "Benoît can transform himself into a dance movement." He gave these movements to his dancers, who explored and occupied them. Only when the work was virtually finished did Benoît then add Ahmed Hassan's thrilling末尾. "I want the choreography to make sense by itself in science," Benjamin says. "That way, when I finally bring in the music, it's not a support, it's a complement."

Certainly his methods have borne extraordinary results. Trilogy is as attractive, prodigiously skilled (dancers try to forget the mass and vocal) as Marylyn Hansen's is a show in herself: broken through the mists of habitual perception to deliver an experience as potent as the desert sun.

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Russian roulette

A gun-toting bad guy goes where the boys are

THE BOYS CLUB

Directed by John Fawcett

Employ occurs as a rioter of course, and no gauge of heroism, in American movies. But when a gun appears in a Canadian film, it is often viewed with injury suspicion—that is, as a foible or a foiling, alien object. That was certainly the case with *I Love a Man Like Ulysses* (1980) by Toronto director David Wellington, the story of a psychotic actor who tries to cast as a cop and eliminate a dangerous, fresh-for-a-police revolver. And now in *The Boys Club* scripted by Wellington's younger brother, Peter, a rioter again becomes a tableau-object of fear and fascination.

This is a modest, conversational, but well-crafted drama about three blue-jeaned, pot-smoking boys who undergo a rite of passage. Only they have some added-toe-soreness. A strike has shut down their school. They have turned a handle-down shack in the woods into their classless clubhouse and, surrounded by jocks, they spend their days smoking cigarettes and reading *Playboy*. But one day they show up to find a wounded fugitive named Luke (Chris Penn) huddled up with a gun.

Closing in on a "good cop" on the run from "bad cops," Luke impresses the boys with his wit and, and enlists them in secretly organizing his escape. They are scared and thrilled to join in such an adult adventure. Luke shows them his gun, lets them handle it. He is no sexual predator, just a villain preying on boyhood innocence. But the situation is ripe with symbolism. Luke is the father figure from hell, the violent counterpart to the hockey coach who is not to be trusted.

The story follows a predictable arc and requires a major leap of faith. It is hard to imagine contemporary teenagers being quite so gullible and failing so long to figure out that Luke is a bad guy. How could Penn typecast as a wise guru in *Flame* (ranging from *Reindeer Games* to *Short Circuit*, for anything else?) fit within the safety framework of the clubhouse premise, first-time director John Fawcett creates a convincing world, drawing authentic performances from his three adolescent stars.



Zapagnino, Sawn and Stone: hopped small-town kids forced into a rite of passage

hookish skeptic who goes along for the ride. Paul, meanwhile, trades his signature sneer—a callous of malice that makes *The Boy Club* more than just another sweetly Canadian coming-of-age movie.

BRIAN DA JOHNSON

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Theatre

Burglars, bunglers

HIGH LIFE
By Lori Macdonald
Directed by Jim Miller

When *High Life*, Lee Macdonald's dark comedy about four would-be bank robbers, premiered last year at Toronto's du Maurier World Stage festival, it was an instant success. Its five performances quickly sold out, and *High Life* became one of the most legendary theatrical experiences this few bad feet and many pixels for. Now *High Life* is back, and with the same talented quartet of actors—Brent Carver, Randy Hodgson, Ron White and Clive Goldstein—returning to Toronto's du Maurier Theatre Centre on March 16, the show will move to an off-Broadway location in the spring, then tour across Canada late in the year.

The dramatic premise of *High Life* is as plain as a gun in the face. Four criminals, who also happen to be morphine addicts, plan the bank heist that will put them on easy street forever. The trouble is, the little group is so meet with its meagre bank-robbed and sheer incompetence that just getting themselves to the bank is going to be a major accomplishment. They spend most of the time telling obscenely funny stories (the F-word flies through this play more quickly than the bullets ever do) and then stealing to kill each other over real and imagined insults. About the only time they are silent is when they are blown out on drugs. It hardly comes as a surprise when their little enterprise goes bust, although Macdonald has introduced some twists that ultimately color the farce with tragedy.

Carver is once again brilliant as Dorsie, the sickly slob with a talent for robbing banks out of bank machines. And Hodgson's thick-skinned psychopath, Big, is a hilarioussly demonstrating that stupidity will never go out of fashion as a source of comedy. Along with Ron White's grueling caricature Duck and Chastain's deadpan Bill, they create a small, heightened counter-distribution of thieves at which there is a kind of honor, at least some of the time. As their little society implodes, the laughter generated by *High Life* grows uneasy. These robbers might be a razzmatazz, but in their needs and passions they do not in the end, seem all that different from anybody else.

JOHN HEMROSE

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Allan Fotheringham

Shattering a boy's faith in Canadian dreams

Every small boy in every small Prairie town had only one dream: Ask (W. D. Mitchel) and ambition others. To play for the Toronto Maple Leafs. There was Foster Hewitt on Saturday night, "Apple" Drilled and Davidson. No dream, he-scored! That was home on earth.

Now we find Maple Leaf Gardens, the shrine of hockey, was the shrine of sex orgies with teenage boys while executives looked the other way. The earth collapsed, and at time for the new Eaton's, that other example of Prairie life, is to sue. Started out of cash, possibly to be swallowed by some American giant. A small Prairie boy can take only so much.

The year resolved around Eaton's catalogue. The selection of Christmas gifts. The arrival of Christmas gifts by mail. For small Prairie boys, there was the added advantage of the early introduction to sex education: girls the bodies in the underwear ads. Oh, secret joy.

The Eaton's catalogue, never wasted, never thrown out, then moved on to yet another most necessary role—perhaps the first example of the recycling mode was so popular: In the twinkle of an eye, it had almost exactly a year until the new Eaton's catalogue arrived. The family bosses in far-off Toronto must have gazed the thickness of the big book exactly for 12 months' use.

And so the Eaton's mythology is gone, along with the reverence connected to Maple Leaf Gardens. I guess the influence won't be arriving. One supposes the riot started when Timothy Eaton, 127 years ago, pronounced that the filthy weed, tobacco, could not be sold on the premises, and cigarettes for generations—while the world moved on—were banished as a commodity in the largest and best-loved department store chain in Canada.

The family inertia that marked his dying days was signified by that other Eaton tradition. On Sundays, the blinds were drawn on its street-front display windows, less the smarmy passing by might spy the male mannequin that were having their duds changed. One can't be too careful.

It's an old standard in the inheritance business that the first generation makes a fortune, the second generation squanders it and following generations peddle it away. The secretive and gen-

vate Eaton family ladder is not the first to add to that legend.

Modern commerce is not kind to dabblers. I always thought Fred Eaton of the four boys was the brightest of the bunch until, as president of the T. Eaton Co. Ltd., he for some strange reason accepted the appointment from Brian Mulroney as Canada's high commissioner to London. Shortly after arriving, he, in a speech to an important English audience, announced that he had no idea why he had been chosen for the post.

A certain scribbler who cannot be identified wrote at the time that of Fred Eaton, a member of a family that rewards the political party of its choice with generous campaign donations, really did not know why he was chosen; he should never be allowed outside the house without his camera tied on a string. Since returning, he has taken to attempting to have his Brampton meet friends support Pierre Manning of the Reform, with an earful of success.

There's a wonderful social group up there—the Hollywood-Americana John Clegg Estate, owners of Eaton's of Canada Ltd., the family holding company. It is that he used to attend, five lunch-hour's work at a stretch but classy Toronto restaurant, an audience each day—literati and a stable "well-dress."

The master of, proud of his cause and his temperament, French chef, would quietly go into the kitchen and produce the steak "well-done"—knowing said chef would explode or nose on the spot if asked to prepare such an outrage.

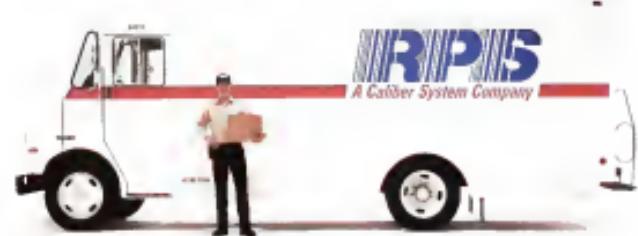
No one really knows what the wonderfully named Tim Eaton (the family patriarchal Super-won of domestic breeding) does except make horses. George Eaton, who had to step in as president when Fred left and who headed himself so impressively and confidently in the press conference announcing the disaster, spent his previous adult life as a driver on European race circuits. One does not get the impression that the feds devoted a lot of their time to learning the business on their way up.

One of the more exotic aspects of his performance was that he continually referred to "stakeholders" in his presentation. This is the arraignment new word popularized by Buzz Bissinger, the Canadian Auto Parts union buster who argues that workers have a "state" in the interests of the employer they work for and must be regarded as integral factors—and rewarded as such—in the profitability of their houses.

It would be rude to mention, of course, that the venerable family firm that socketed the two-holers of Saskatchewan through all its years of making millions for its heirs managed to keep the unions out of its factories.

And so while Wal-Mart strides the land and J. C. Penney lurks as a predator and Zellers and Sears go downmarket and Home Depot drags in consumers, Eaton's is going the way of the catalogue that it lifted in 1976 (forgetting the last two-holer had expired). And I guess that means that Gerrie Deffen must be dead.

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